Sekirei
SAKURAKO GOKURAKUIN
6

Sekirei 6
SAKURAKO GOKURAKUIN

SEKIREI ⑥

Gokurakuin Sakurako

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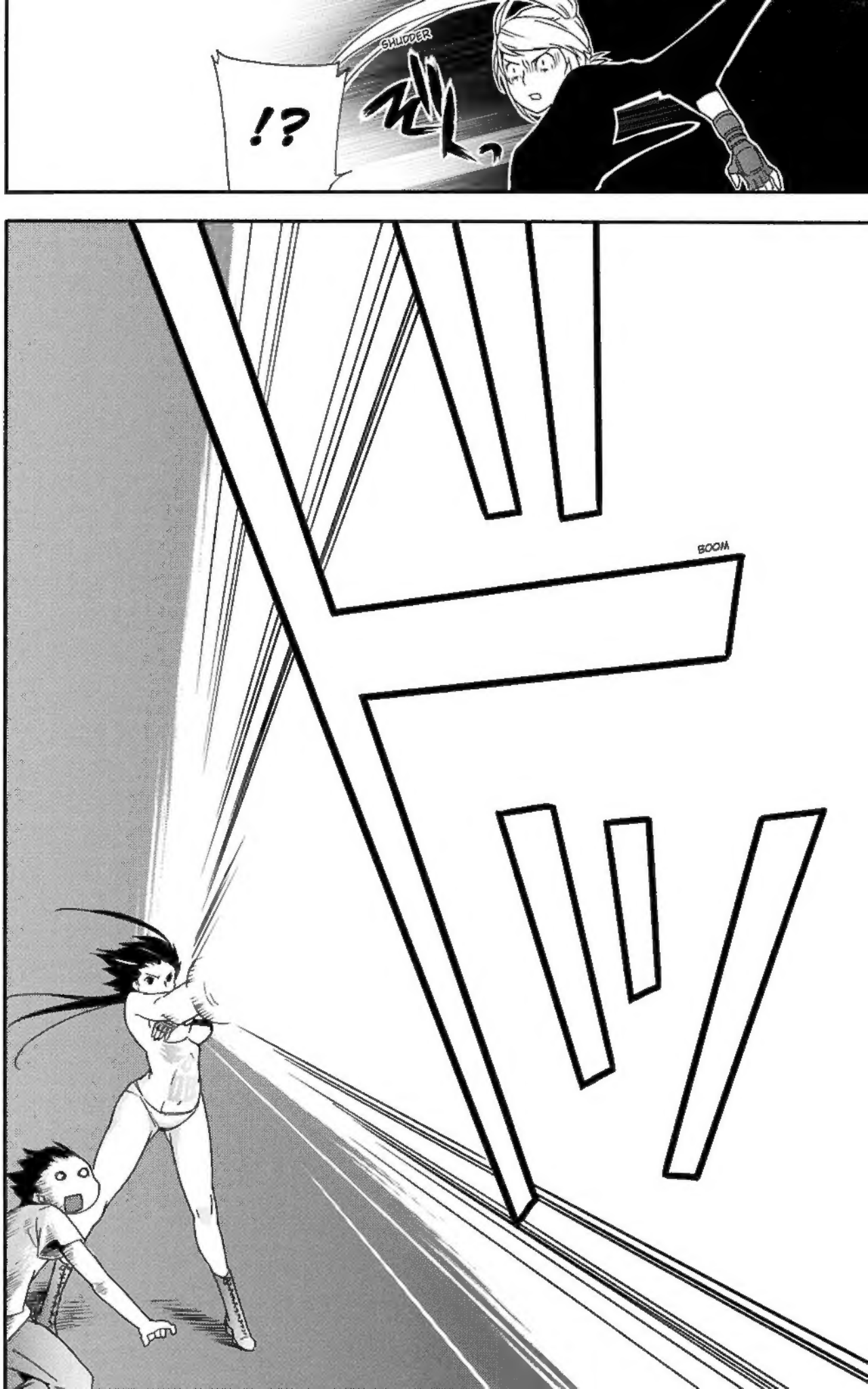
Chapter 48: Sekirei of Fate

LOVE.
IF ANYONE GETS IN THE WAY OF LOVE...
...THEN I, "NO. 08"...
...YUME, THE "SEKIREI OF FATE," WILL BE THEIR OPPONENT !!!

WHO'S THAT?

TWITCH
BE SILENT!!
HOLD ON...
YOU BUMP YOUR HEAD A LITTLE TOO HARD DURING THAT BEATING?
WHEN DID THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD BECOME A UNIT THAT PICKS ON THE WEAK?
IT'S DOWN-RIGHT DEPLOR-ABLE.
AS YOUR SENIOR ...
...I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DOLE OUT PUNISHMENT.

DAMN...
LEAP
!
PISSING ME OFF.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?


!?
SHUDDER
BOOM

BLAST
WHA—
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WHA...?
...L—
LASER... BEAM?
WHAAAA.

HUH...?
THE HELL WAS THAT?
WHO ARE YOU?
NO. 08, YUME!
MBI AFFILIATE AND GUARDIAN OF "PROJECT S."
LEADER OF THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD. SEKIREI OF FATE.

P-PROJECT S...??
THE OLD CODE NAME FOR THE SEKIREI PROJECT.
TSUKI-UMI...IS THAT...
...MUSUBI-CHAN...?
I DON'T KNOW!
I'M AT AS MUCH OF A LOSS AS YOU.
LEADER?
I THOUGHT KARASUBA WAS ALWAYS THE LEADER!?
GAH. WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?
GRAB
EEK.
YOINK
FLIP
I CAN TELL. YOU...
...ARE LACKING IN LOVE.
YOU'RE NOT YET QUALIFIED TO BE ON THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD.
EH. WAIT...
DON'T...

ZOOM
HYAH!
F-NG
COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE READY!!

SHE TOSSED HER!?

キラ～ン
SPARKLE
FLUNG AWAY AS IF SHE WERE NOTHING.
S-SUCH A BRUTAL FOE.
TURN
TWITCH
STUNNED
OVER...
...JUST LIKE THAT.
AHH...
THERE'S PLENTY OF LOVE HERE, YES.

STRONG HEARTS THAT SELFLESSLY SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.
!
AND...
BURNING PASSION FOR BOTH FRIEND AND MASTER.
YOUR FEELINGS FOR "MUSUBI"...
THEY FILL YOUR HEART WITH SUCH WARMTH.

IT WAS THAT HEART OF YOURS...
...THAT SUMMONED ME HERE.
PRESS
ふにゅっ
!!
WHA...
YOU WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS TURMOIL TO DO THAT?

GET AWAY FROM HER, MINATO.
OR ARE YOU UNABLE TO...?

IT'S FLOWING INTO ME.
THE KINDNESS... THE INTENSE KINDNESS WITHIN YOUR HEART.....

MUSUBI ...
... CERTAINLY BOUND HERSELF TO A GOOD MAN.
RESTRAIN YOUR-SELVES, YOU TWO.
HOW SHAME-LESS!!
SPLASH
.....
...?

WHAT ...
...WAS I DOING?
HUH?
?
FADE
BLINK

MUSUBI-CHA—
AH! ♡
MINATO-SAN!
MUSUBI-CHA—?
MUSUBI-CHAN... IS THAT YOU...?

I THOUGHT I UNDER-STOOD THAT, BUT...!!
I... WAS SO NAÏVE.
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW HARSH SEKIREI BATTLES CAN BE.
HER SEKIREI CREST HAS RETURNED ...!?
MI—
MI-MI-MINATO-SAN?

BUT...I CLUNG TO THE HOPE THAT EVERY-THING WOULD SOMEHOW BE OKAY.
THAT'S WHY I UNDERES-TIMATED THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD.
I WAS SURE YOU'D BE OKAY, MUSUBI-CHAN...
...
BUT...
...BUT THEN, YOUR SEKIREI CREST VANISHED, MUSUBI-CHAN...
MINATO-SAN...?
AND I... COULDN'T DO ANY-THING ABOUT IT.
I... I...I'M TOTALLY USELESS...
YOU CHOSE ME, OF ALL PEOPLE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU CHOSE ME.

GLOW
はぁ…
DON'T BE FOOLISH!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND IT YOUR-SELF...
...YOUR MERE PRESENCE AT OUR SIDES...
IT MATTERS A GREAT DEAL TO US.

TEARS DO NOT BEFIT OUR ASHIKABI.
RUB
RUB
OUCH.
THAT HURTS, TSUKIUMI.
TSUKI-UMI.....
HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH, MINATO!

SQUEEZE
OUCH
OUUCH.
WHOOSH

Chapter
49:
Answer
of the
Wind

SQUISH
SQUISH
きゅうううう
SQUEEZE
MUSUBI IS ALSO A WIFE!
S-SO TIGHT...
CONCU-BINES OUGHT TO STEP BACK!
...YOU.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, IT IS A WIFE'S DUTY TO SOOTHE HER HUSBAND.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU OUGHT TO EXPOSE YOURSELF ALL THE TIME.
SHOW A BIT OF MODESTY !!
AND MUSUBI'S BOOBS ARE BIGGER!!
TSUKI-UMI...
HEY... MUSUBI-CHA—

MINATO-SAN?
WHAT IS IT, MINATO?
THROB
UGH.
OUCH.
M-MY RIBS...I THINK...
...MIGHT BE BROKEN...
I HEARD A "CRACK" BEFORE.
...BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, MUSUBI-CHAN...?
ARE YOU... HURT?
THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD DID A NUMBER ON YOU.
YOUR SEKIREI CREST... VANISHED ...
...AND A DIFFERENT NUMBER APPEARED .....

IT'S TRUE, MUSUBI! WHAT WAS THAT?
YOU SEEMED LIKE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
?
?
?
YUME...
?
?
?
?
?
?
A DIFFERENT PERSON ...?
YES. YOU EVEN TOLD US YOUR NAME!
"NO. 08, YUME" !!

...IT SEEMS SHE DOESN'T RECALL ANYTHING.
...
YEAH.
UMM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT...
...COULD THIS "YUME" HAVE BEEN...
...YUME-SAMA, MAYBE?
NO. 08, YUME-SAMA.
YUME-SAMA SAVED MY LIFE ONCE.
SHE GAVE ME A SEKIREI "SOUL."

SOUL... A SOUL?
REALLY?
!
?
?
HEY, SAHASHI.
YOU OKAY?
SHIGI-KUN!
HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU HURT?
JUST A FEW SCRAPES.
WELL, SHE ALSO VOMITED A TON OF BLOOD.

HMPH.
UMM... THANK YOU.
NOT SURE WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T SHOWN UP.
KUNO-SAN.
YOUR SONG, KUNO-SAN.
I HEARD IT TOO!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE WEAK OR STRONG.
JUST THAT YOU STOOD UP AND FOUGHT WITH YOUR OWN POWER.
NOT AT ALL!
I WAS SO USE-LESS.
BUT... I, WELL ...

RIGHT?
TSUKI-UMI-SAN?

...THAT SAID...
BUT IN THE GOAL TO ESCAPE TEITO, SHE'S STILL A PACIFIST.
YOU CAN ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE WE SUCCEEDED IN REPELLING THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD.
HMPH. IN HINDSIGHT, YES.

I'VE REVISED MY OPINION OF YOU...
I HOPE YOU FIND HAPPINESS WITH YOUR ASHIKABI IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
NOD

ANYWAY, LOOKS LIKE THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD IS GONE.
SO OUR BIGGEST OBSTACLE'S OUT OF THE WAY, AND THE BORDER'S IN SIGHT...
...BUT...
...THE BRIDGE IS...

WOW.
WHY IS PART OF THE BRIDGE GONE?

TSUKI-UMI.
CAN'T YOU MAKE A BRIDGE OUT OF WATER?
A PARLOR TRICK LIKE THAT? OF COURSE NOT.
AND THE SHORE IS TOO FAR TO CARRY ANYONE VIA MY WATER DRAGON.

DID I REALLY DO THAT, SOMEHOW!?
IT WAS ME!?
EHH?
YUP. SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER SHOOTING THAT LASER...

...DAMMIT.
DAMMIT.
WE CAME SO FAR...!!
WHOOSH
SWISH
!
WE ESCAPED THE REAL DANGER, BUT...
GETTING OUT OF TEITO IS STILL LOOKING IMPOSSIBLE.
ISN'T THERE... ANYTHING WE CAN DO?
...
SOMEONE
...
SOME-ONE
.....

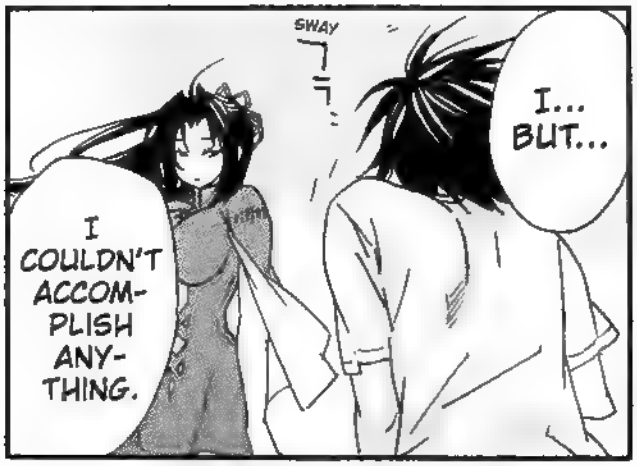
YOU CALL FOR ME?
ASHI-KABI-KUN?
I'M HERE.

SEKIREI... OF WIND.

WIND...!

THE SEKIREI OF WIND.
NO. 03, KAZEHA-NA.

TSU-TSUKIUMI-SAAAN.
SWISH
!!


SWAY
I... BUT...
I COULDN'T ACCOM-PLISH ANY-THING.

WHOOSH
STAY AWAY FROM MINATO!!
WH-WHAT ON EARTH!? IT'S YOU!!

FORGET "BEING A MAN." I WAS HELPLESS.
SHOW ME YOU'RE A MAN.

I PUT MUSUBI-CHAN'S...AND TSUKIUMI'S LIVES IN DANGER.
I AGREED TO HELP THEM ESCAPE TEITO WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT HOW HARD IT'D BE.

I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A MAN.
... BEFORE BECOMING AN ASHI-KABI...
CLENCH
EVEN... EVEN SINCE...

I WANT YOU, NOW.
BUT BE THAT AS IT MAY...
I NEED TO USE YOUR POWER.
SEKIREI OF WIND.

WOW...
THIS HEAT IN ME...
...CALL ME BY MY NAME.
"KAZE-HANA."
MINATO.
WHOOSH
WH-WHAT?
GET AWAY FROM HER, YOU!!

Chapter 50: Reunion's Promise

...CALL ME BY MY NAME.

"KAZE-HANA."

FLINCH
MINATO-SAN!
AND ARE YOU BLUSHING? REALLY?
GET AWAY FROM HER...OR CAN'T YOU?
GET AWAY FROM HER, YOU!!
MINATO.

THIS IS GREAT! IT'S YOUR "FIFTH."
YOU REALLY DID IT.
DID IT...? MUSU-BIIII!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

MU-MUSUBI-CHA—
EVEN WITH YOU CHEERING ME ON, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY EASY.
UFU. ♡

...THAT YOU'RE A MAN.

YOU SHOWED ME...

GLOMP
WAHH
!

STROKE

BUT... I...
ALBEIT A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING ONE.
GOOD-FOR-...
DON'T GOTTA BE THAT HONEST.
YOU WORRY FOR THEM.
CRY FOR THEM.
AND LOVE THEM.
THAT'S EVERY-THING A SEKIREI NEEDS...
...IN AN ASHIKABI.

THE WIND YOU BLOW...
...MAY NOT BE THE MOST RELIABLE.
BUT...
...IT'S VERY KIND.

GASP!
NN.
NNNN.
...

!!
KAZE-
HANA-
SA—
EH...
HOLD...
...ON...

HUH ?
I FEEL LIKE TSUKIUMI-SAN DID THE SAME THING TO MUSUBI ...?
HOW LONG WILL THIS PERSIST?

SPLASH

I WAS ENTRANCED FOR A MOMENT THERE.
FU FU.

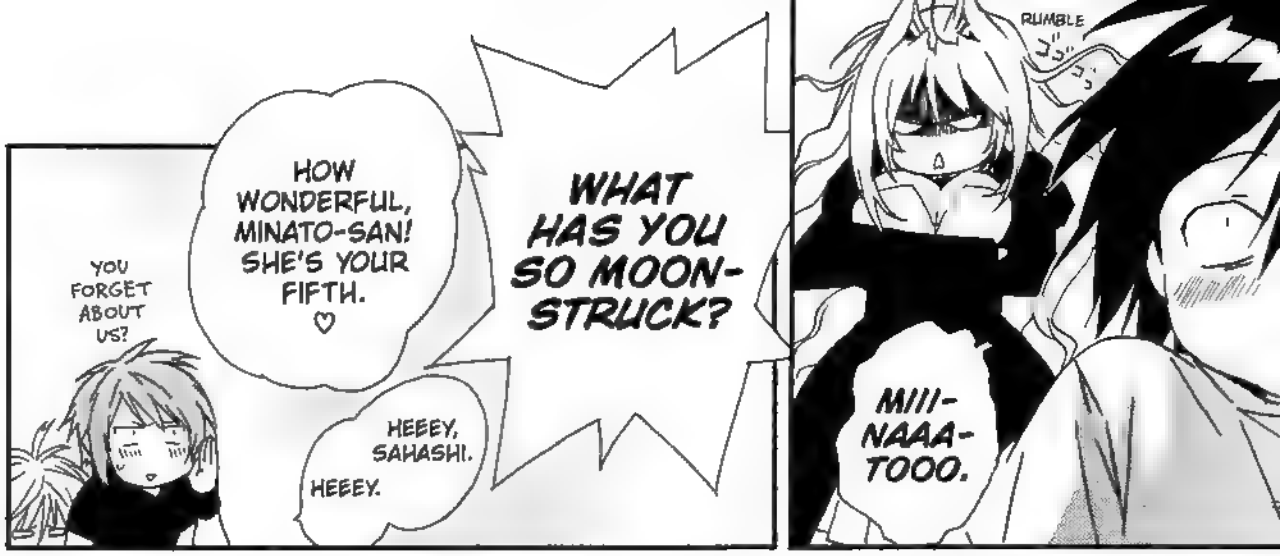
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
...SO HOT.
THIS HEAT IS NEARLY BOILING OVER...
INSIDE MY BODY.
...THEY'RE MELTING IT ALL AWAY...
...THIS HEAT. ...THIS KINDNESS.
...MY FEELINGS FOR THAT PERSON ARE FADING...
I'VE GOTTEN OVER MY PAST LOVE.
THANK YOU.

SEKIREI NO. 03, KAZEHANA ...
...RECOG-NIZES YOU AS HER ASHIKABI.
YOUR WINGS...

MY NEW LOVE. ♡

N—
NEW...
...LOVE??

TOGETHER FOREVER.
MY ASHIKABI-KUN. ♡


RUMBLE
MIII-NAAA-TOOO.
WHAT HAS YOU SO MOON-STRUCK?
HOW WONDERFUL, MINATO-SAN! SHE'S YOUR FIFTH. ♡
YOU FORGET ABOUT US?
HEEEY, SAHASHI.
HEEEY.

WITH THAT TAKEN CARE OF...
...I'M GLAD TO BE WITH YOU GIRLS. ♡

KAZE-HANA-SAN!
JUST CALL ME KAZE-HANA. ♡
CUT THAT OUT. ♡

DID YOU WING HER?
H-HEY.
YOU HAVEN'T WON MY AFFEC-TIONS!!
Y-YEAH.
OH, THAT'S IT! I GOT IT.
THAT WIND WAS INCREDIBLE.
AND HOW DARE YOU BLOW ME AWAY LIKE THAT!?

YOUR WIND.

WITH YOUR WIND...
...CAN YOU GET THESE TWO OUT OF TEITO?
CAN YOU CARRY THEM TO FREEDOM ...?

HOW SWEET.
THOSE HANDS.
I-I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT...
PLEASE HELP US.
... PLEASE.
BE SURE...
...NOT TO LET GO. ♡

M-MUSUBI DOESN'T LIKE IT EITHER...
YOU... CLAIMING MINATO'S LIPS AS YOUR OWN— TWICE NOW.
UNFOR-GIVABLE, I SAY!!

EH?
TWIST

!!
SMOOCH
むちゅ

BY THE WIND OF MY CONTRACT ...
...BLOW AWAY THE DARK CLOUDS FROM MY ASHIKABI.

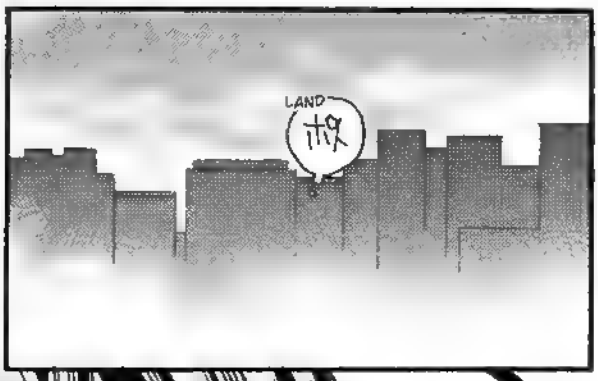
"FLOWER STORM."
!!
HER NORITO ?

SAHASHI!

BECAUSE I'LL KEEP WORKING ...
...EVEN HARDER!
GOOD LUCK!
WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

SOMEDAY, HERE IN SHINTOU TEITO!
YEAH.
SEE YA!

QUIT CRY-ING.


LAND

HUH? CEO? ANOTHER WOMAN?
BECAUSE THE CEO'S HEART WAS PROMISED TO ANOTHER WOMAN.
HE REJECTED ME, OF COURSE.
CEO?
WHY DID YOU AND THIS OTHER NOT WED!?
MY, YOU SURE DO ASK NAUGHTY QUESTIONS.
YOU MENTIONED A PAST LOVE, DID YOU NOT?
YOU!
HA-HA-HA-HA.
MBI CEO
HIROTO MINAKA
CEO!?
OH, KNOCK IT OFF. THINKING OF HIM STILL GETS ME HOT AND BOTHERED.
KLAK
WHAT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
EVEN MUSUBI IS SURPRISED.
A-ARE YOU QUITE SERIOUS!?
CEO? YOU MEAN THAT CEO!?

CEO?
YOU MEAN THAT CEO!?
A-ARE YOU QUITE SERIOUS!?
EVEN MUSUBI IS SURPRISED.
WHAT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I'M SAYING YOUR WAYS WITH MEN ARE INCOMPREHENSIBLE!!
WOW, THE CEO.
YOU.

Chapter 51: Secret Shore

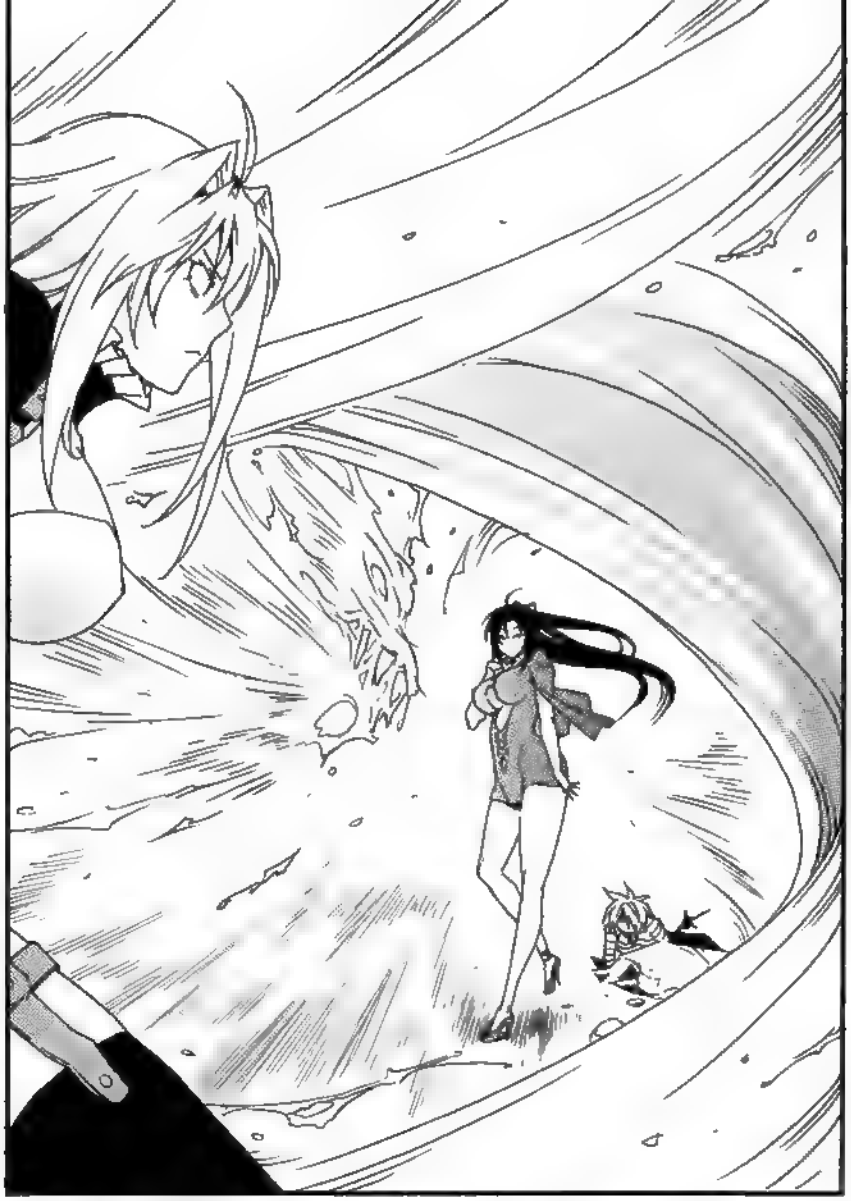
PRESS
I'VE GOT A NEW BOYFRIEND NOW!
GYAHHH!
ALAS, HE TURNED ME AWAY.
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST, THOUGH... BECAUSE...
KLAK
HAA. HAA.
I...
I THOUGHT I WOULD DROWN...
STRAIN

GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
YOUUUU...!
HOLD ON...
STOP IT... TSUKIUMI.
BLOW
...ARE NO. 01 AND THE GAME MASTER.
AS I TOLD YOU...
...THE ONLY ONES WHO MAY SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY...
MY PATIENCE IS AT ITS LIMIT.
NO. 03!! I WILL END YOU, HERE AND NOW!!

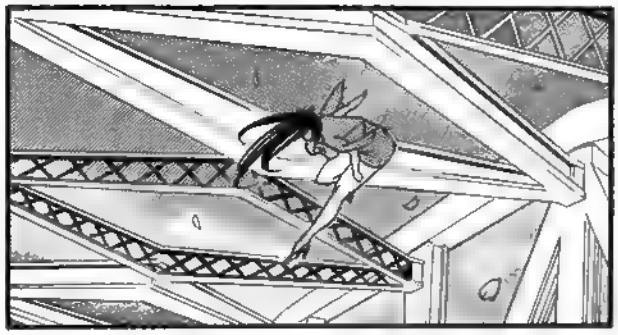
FLAP
GOT IT?
AND WE CAN ALL SEE YOUR PANTIES. ♡
NUAHHH.
I WILL KILL YOU, NO. 03!!
TSUKIUMI-SAN, KAZEHANA-SAN.
WE MUSTN'T FIGHT EACH OTHER.
SWAY

KAZEHANA-SAAAN.
TSUKIUMI-SAAAN.
BOTH OF YOU.
I'LL... NEVER FORGIVE... YOU.
YOU'RE ALL DEAD...
SPLURT
WHAK
PLEASE STOP IT.

FSSHH
...WHAK?
?
HEH... HEH HEH.
NOT BAD... NO. 88...
?
SPLAT
PANTY-SHOT-CHAN... ♡
FU FU.
THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME? JUST TRY IT.
NUAHHHH!
AHHHHHH!



WATER DRAGON!!



EH…

YOU MISSED.

RISE

SPLASH

HMPH.

B—
BOTH OF YOU!!

WE'RE ALL FRIENDS.
ST—
STOP FIGHTING.

RIGHT ?
SO... PLAY NICE?

SQUEAL
きゃん
AWWW.
HE'S RIGHT. ♡ LET'S BE FRIENDS. ♡
I COULD EAT HIM UP. ♡♡
HOW CUTE. ♡

HMPH...
IF... IF MINATO SAYS SO.....
SO BE IT.

A CEASE-FIRE, THEN!
YES.

FRIENDS, FRIENDS! ♡
THAT'S RIGHT.
POP
にょきっ

WELL.
WE CAN'T STAND AROUND HERE ALL DAY.
SHALL WE RETURN TO IZUMO INN?
WHA—
YOU'RE COMING HOME WITH US!?
OF COURSE.

COME... OFF IT...
YOU... BUNCH...

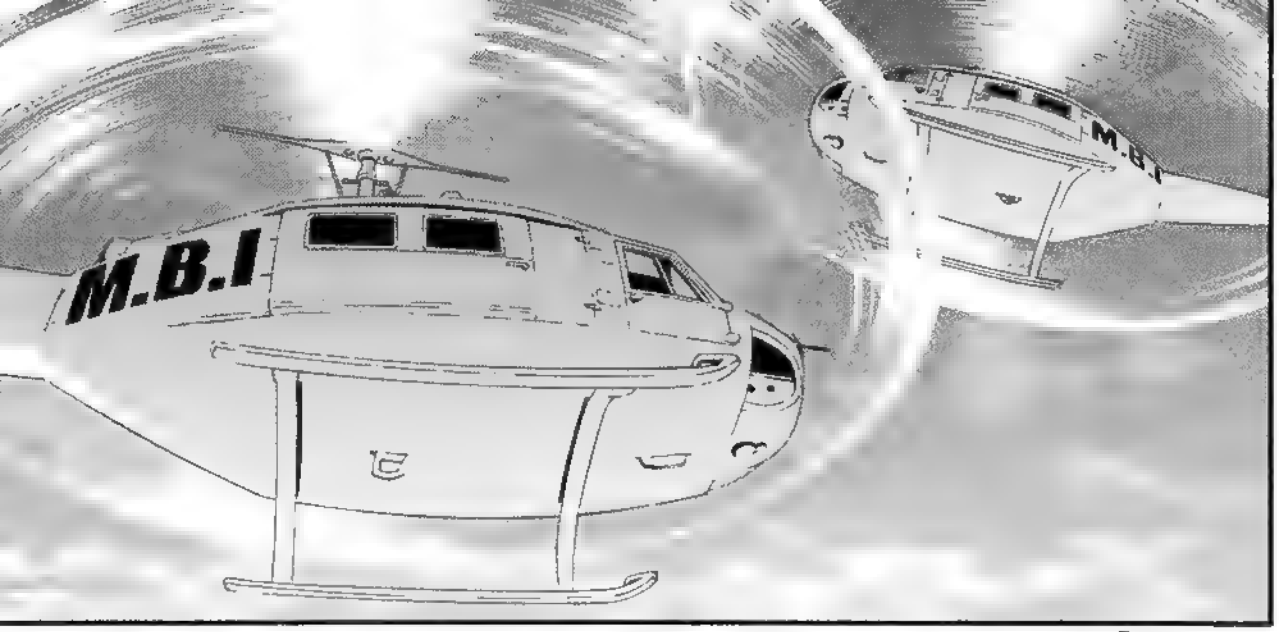
UFU. I'LL BE HAPPY TO JOIN MINATO-KUN IN HIS. ♡
THERE ARE NO MORE FREE ROOMS!!
IM-IMPURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GENDERS IS FORBIDDEN AT IZUMO INN!!
...RIGHT THERE.
WAIT...

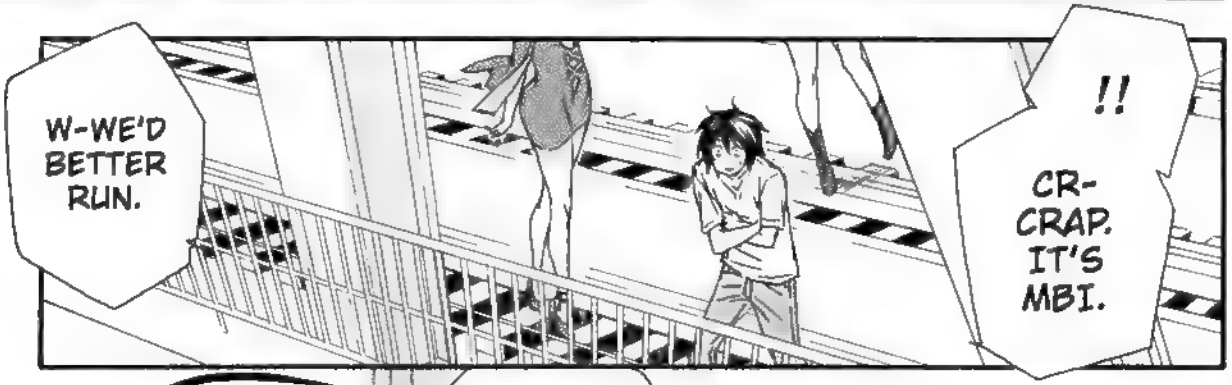
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE !?
YOU! I THOUGHT I DROPPED YOU IN THE RIVER.
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
THE DISCI-PLINARY SQUAD MEM-BER?
I'LL... KILL YOU.
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
SPEAK UP, DEAR. CAN'T HEAR YOU.
PAY ATTENTION, PEOPLE...
FOR... A WHILE NOW.....!!
STOMP
STOMP
ONLY BY NO. 01 AND THE GAME MASTER.
MY, YOU'RE A RUDE LITTLE GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
I WON'T BE SPOKEN TO THAT WAY BY YOU.

...BY MY ASHIKABI-KUN.
AND STARTING NOW...
YOU NEED...
...TO BE DISCI-PLINED.

ST-STOP MESSING AROUND...!!
"FLOWER TWISTER."

COME BACK WHEN YOU'VE REMEMBERED YOUR MANNERS.
SPLASH
F.WOOM
F.WOOM
F.WOOM
F.WOOM
F.WOOM
F.WOOM...
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY... SHE'S NO. 03...
THAT WAS AMAZ-ING.


M.B.I
M.B.I


W-WE'D BETTER RUN.
!!
CR-CRAP. IT'S MBI.

MINATO-SAN! MUSUBI CAN CARRY YOU!!
QUICKLY, NOW!

WHAT IS IT, MINATO?

THROB
UGH.

SORRY... UHH.
I CAN'T MOVE...

S-SORRY, MUSUBI-CHAN.
A DUMB BRUTE IS IDEAL FOR TIMES LIKE THIS.
CARRYING YOU BACK HOME BY WIND OR WATER WOULD BE TOUGH.
SINCE YOU'RE HURT.

THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY... SO BE IT.
I WILL ALLOW IT, SO GET ON, MINATO!
B-BUT, GETTING A PIGGYBACK RIDE FROM A GIRL.....
I MEAN,! I KNOW YOU'RE STRONG, MUSUBI-CHAN, BUT STILL...

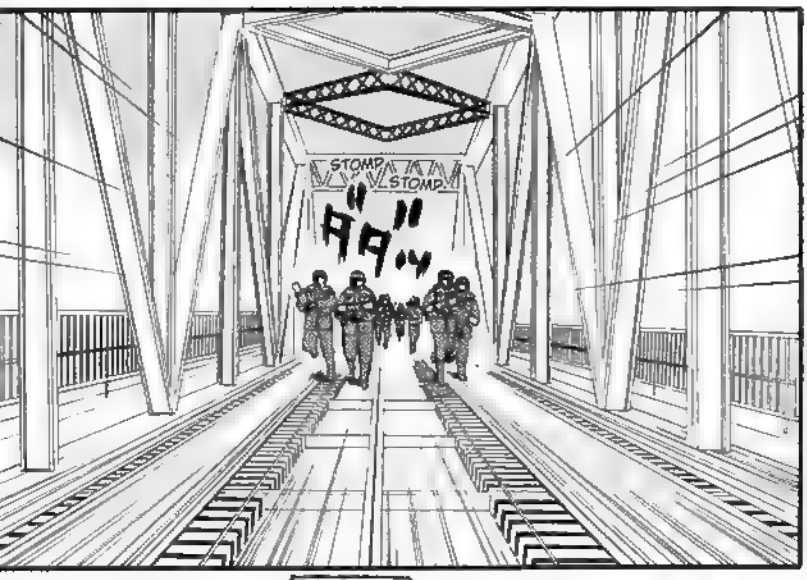
Y-YEAH.
ARE YOU ON THERE? READY?

MU—
MUSUBI... CHAN?
MUSUBI! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

AH.
SPLAT

HUHH?
HUH?
?

I'M NOT SURE...
...BUT...
...MUSUBI'S BODY WON'T MOVE...!

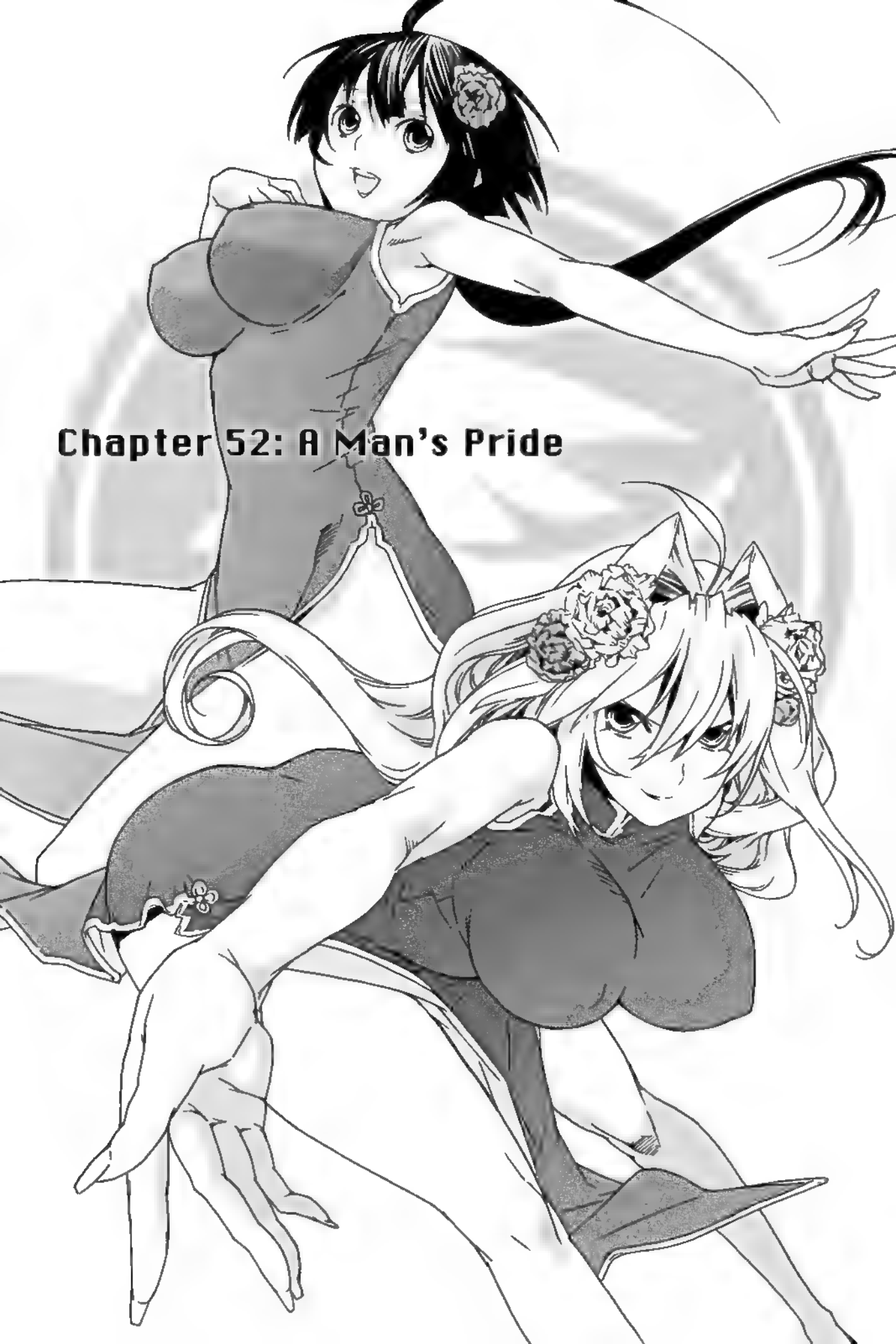

STOMP
STOMP
"AA"

!!

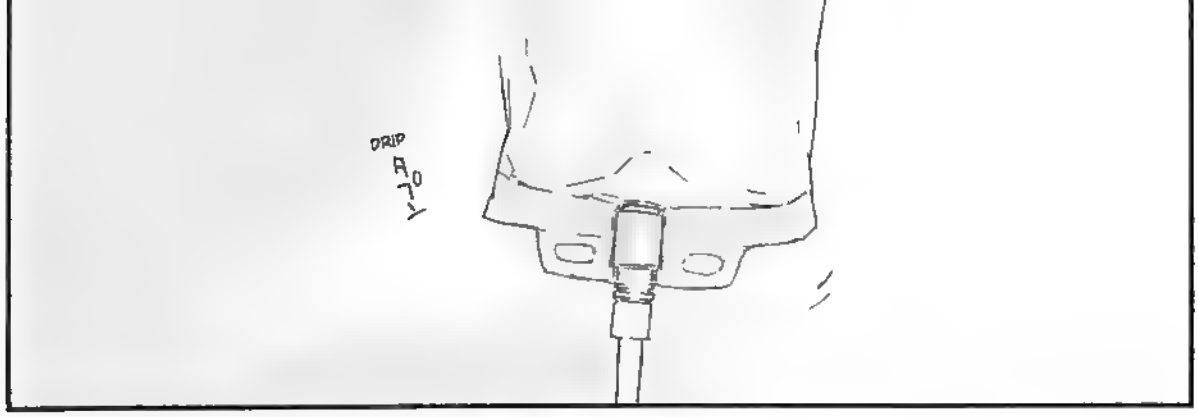
You Sekirei, down there.
Ahhh...
We mean you no harm.
Just come quietly, now.

MBI'S SOLDIERS... HOW TROUBLESOME.
!
SHOULD I BLOW THEM ALL AWAY?

WHY ARE YOU HERE .....?
WH-WHAT THE—?
I THINK THAT'S ...
AH! THAT VOICE.
?
STEP
MOM...?



Chapter 52: A Man's Pride


DRIP
DRIP

TSUKI-
UMI...?

...?

LET'S SEE.
EH...? THIS IS...
WHY AM I.....?
BACK THEN...

MOM...
IS THAT YOU?
...OHH? I WAS WONDERING WHO THIS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING MIGHT BE.
TURNS OUT IT'S MY OWN SON.

WHA—?
THAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU SAY, AFTER SO LONG?
YOU'RE LOOKING THIN.
YOU EATING RIGHT?
EH.
YEAH, I GUESS...
?
HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE??
YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S BEEN MISSING YOU.
EH...OH. H-HOW'S GRANNY DOING?
HEH. SHE'LL LIVE ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS, PROBABLY.
AH HA HA.
YEAH. THAT SOUNDS LIKE GRANNY...
.....
HOLD ON!!

WHY!?
MOM, WHY...
...ARE YOU HERE!?

SORRY.
THAT WAS A LIE.
A LIE!?

SIGH..
... WHERE DO I START?

AH...

MINATO. I TOLD YOU I WORKED FOR A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY, RIGHT?
Y- YEAH.

AH! ♡
ROLL
A LIE? ...LIKE A TOTAL LIE!?
HOLD ON... MOM!!
UHHH
TAKAMI-SAN! ♡
IT REALLY IS YOU, TAKAMI-SAN! ♡♡
MUSUBI!
WHAT'S WRONG?
MY BODY WON'T MOVE.
EHHH!?
AND MOM, YOU KNOW MUSUBI-CHAN...?
MUSUBI-CHAN, HOW DO YOU KNOW MY MOM'S NAME...?
EH!?

I'M COORDINATOR FOR MBI'S "SEKIREI PROJECT."
TAKAMI SAHASHI.
"ASHIKABI" MINATO SAHASHI, YOU...
...AND YOUR SEKIREI ARE BEING TAKEN INTO TEMPORARY CUSTODY.
M.B.I
STEP
EH. MODI-FIED...?
MODI-FIED!?
YES. ♡
M... BI...?
TAKAMI-SAN IS THE ONE WHO MODIFIED MUSUBI.

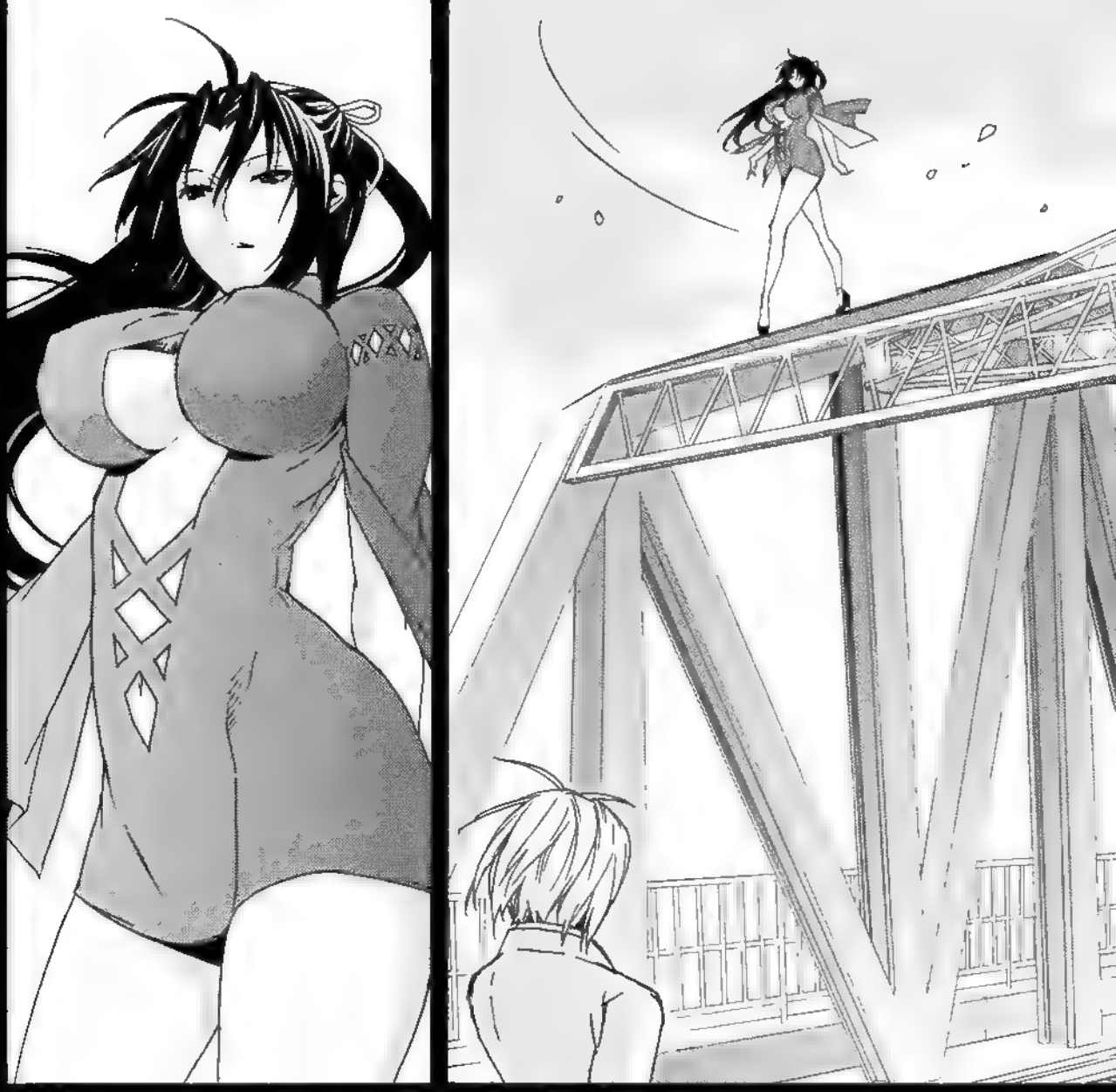
MINATO-SAN...?
YOU...
YOU CAN'T LAY A FINGER...
NO...!
...ON MY SEKIREI ...

IN SEKIREI BATTLES... I'M...
...NOTHING BUT A HINDRANCE, BUT...
MI—
MINATO ...?
...AT LEAST I CAN SERVE AS A SHIELD...!!
IF WE'RE UP AGAINST HUMANS, THEN...
SEEMS LIKE SINCE I LAST SAW YOU...
...YOU'VE GROWN INTO A MAN. AT LEAST A BIT.
GEEZ...

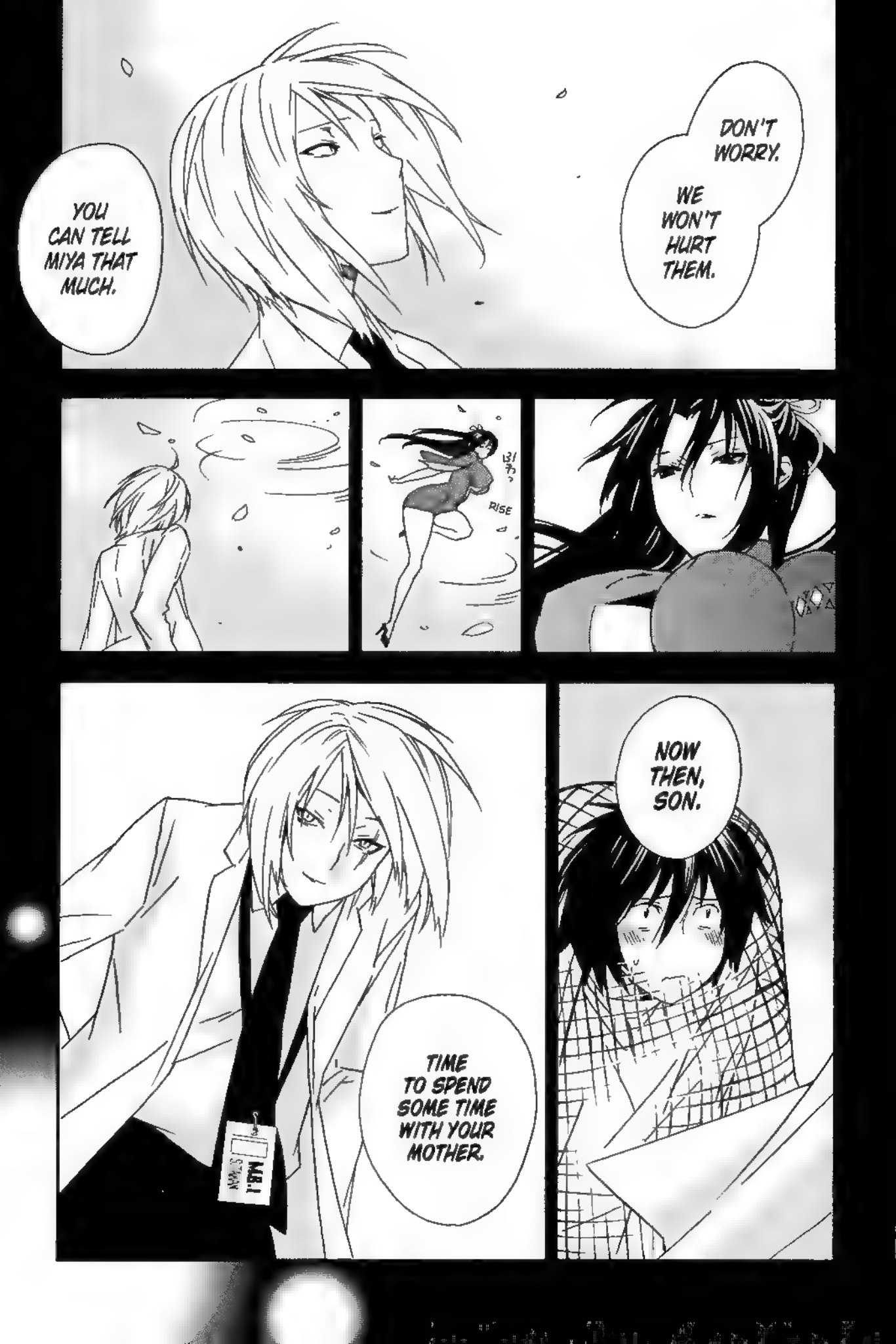
AND AS YOUR MOTHER...
...IT MAKES ME HAPPY. BUT ALSO A LITTLE SAD.....
HUH.
MOM ...?
...STILL...

M.B.I
SS
M.B.I
SS
YOU'RE ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS TOO EARLY...
...TO TALK BACK TO DEAR OLD MOM!!!
SCREEE
EHHHH!
I-I TRIED MY BEST...

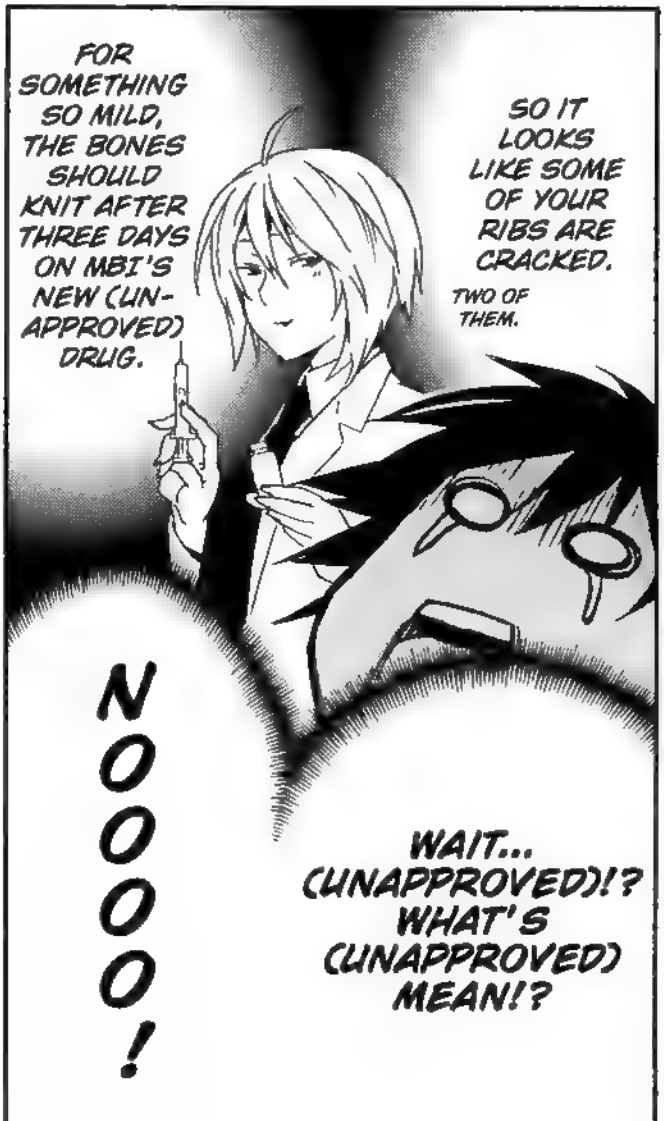
FWUMP
CAPTURE THEM!!
FWUMP
WRAP
POOMF
!
SWISH
RIGHT. GOOD WORK.



...KAZE-HANA.
TH-THAT'S DANGEROUS, TSUKIUMI.
IF NOT, I'LL HAVE TO US MY WATER BLADE!!
LET ME OUT, I SAY.


DON'T WORRY.
WE WON'T HURT THEM.
YOU CAN TELL MIYA THAT MUCH.
RISE
NOW THEN, SON.
TIME TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOUR MOTHER.

JOLT


FOR SOMETHING SO MILD, THE BONES SHOULD KNIT AFTER THREE DAYS ON MBI'S NEW (UN-APPROVED) DRUG.
SO IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OF YOUR RIBS ARE CRACKED.
TWO OF THEM.
NOOOO!
WAIT... (UNAPPROVED)!? WHAT'S (UNAPPROVED) MEAN!?

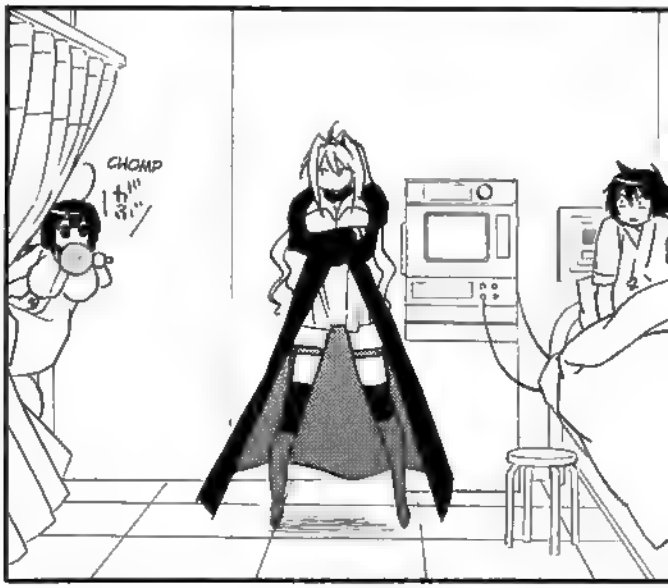
GWAHH.
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE, MINATO.
THROB
!!

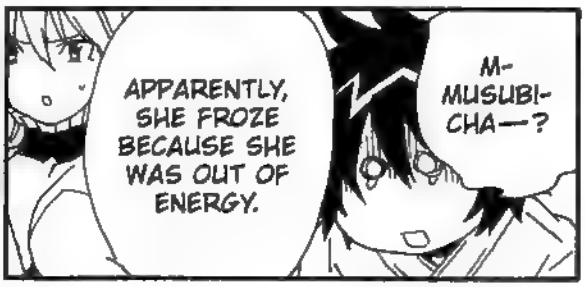
RIGHT... AFTER THAT...
SHE SAID MUSUBI-CHAN AND ME WOULD GET SOME FIRST AID.
AT MOM'S RESEARCH FACILITY, APPAR-ENTLY...

I'M ALIVE ...!!
I'M REALLY ALIVE ...!!
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
MINATO? ARE YOU OKAY?
AH...
R-RIGHT.
WHERE'S MUSUBI-CHAN...?
MINATO-SAAAN.
...MUSUBI IS...
TSUKIUMI... YOU WERE AT MY BEDSIDE.
THANK YOU.
B-BUT OF COURSE!
I'M YOUR WIFE, MINATO!

MUSUBI'S FEELING MUCH BETTER! ♡

MUNCH
MUNCH
もぐもぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
I REALLY ATE A LOT BEFORE WE LEFT JUST SO THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN, BUT...
ARE YOU EATING OR SPEAKING? PICK ONE!


CHOMP
カプ


APPARENTLY, SHE FROZE BECAUSE SHE WAS OUT OF ENERGY.
M-MUSUBI-CHA—?

MUSUBI WAS COVERED IN BRUISES, BUT NOTHING MORE SERIOUS THAN THAT.
INTERNALLY— AND MENTALLY— SHE'S JUST FINE.

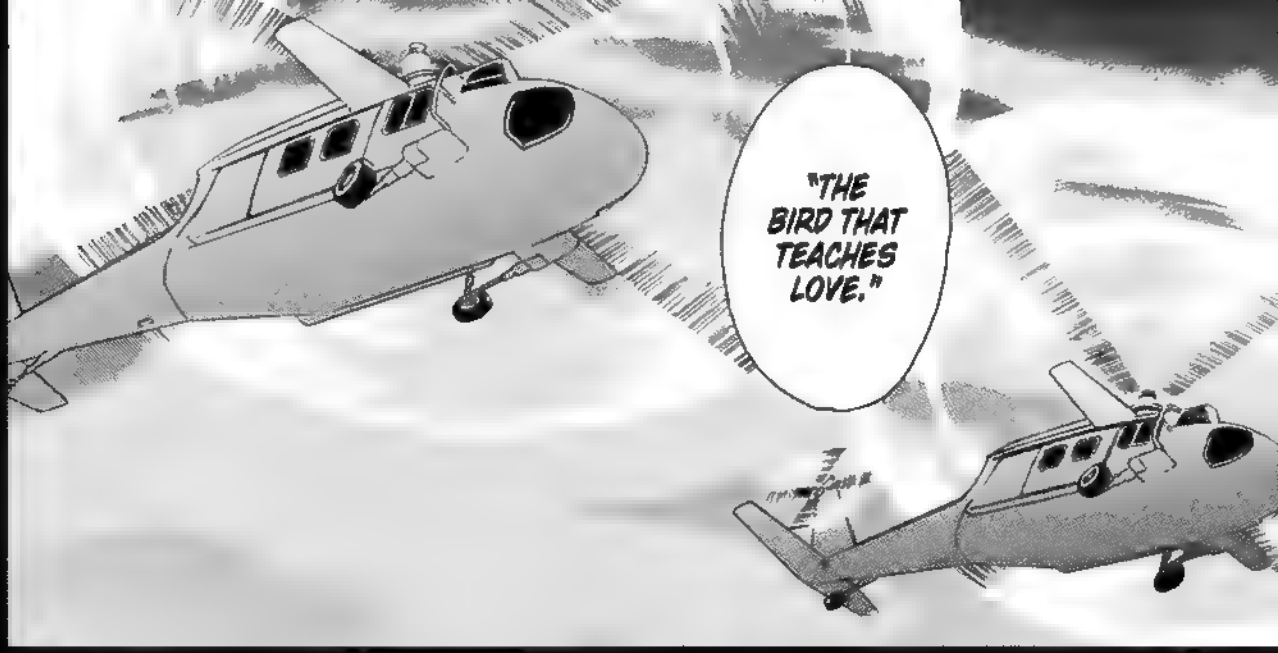
YOU WERE THE WORST OFF, MINATO.
BUT YOU'LL BE FIT TO GO HOME AFTER TWO OR THREE DAYS.

YUME-SAMA HELPED ME OUT. ♡

EH HEH HEH! ♡
BEATEN TO THE POINT OF CEASING TO FUNCTION, BUT NOW IT'S MERELY BRUISES...?
THAT'S OUR DUMB BRUTE FOR YOU.

SHE STOPPED FUNC-TIONING !?
MUSUBI.
I'LL NEED TO EXAMINE YOU AGAIN...
KNOCK KNOCK
WHO IS IT ...?
!
BUT HOW ...!?
WHAT DID YUME DO TO YOU, EXACTLY ...!?
?
MU-CHAN.
I'M HERE TO PAY YOU A GET-WELL VISIT.

Chapter 53: Sky of Promises


"THE BIRD THAT TEACHES LOVE."

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THE WAGTAIL.

RUMBLE
...AND SEKIREI ARE THE SAME.
PEOPLE BECOME STRONGER WHEN THEY LOVE AND ARE LOVED IN RETURN...

FLAP
...AND PREACH THE TEACHINGS OF LOVE TO THE WORLD.
THEY'RE FLEDGLINGS WHO WILL SPREAD THEIR WINGS ONE DAY...
...AT LEAST I CAN PROTECT THE CHICKS.
I'VE STRAYED FROM THAT PATH OF JUSTICE, BUT...

THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME...
...THE SEKIREI OF FATE.
RIGHT? ♡
KARA-SUBA?

KARASUBA-SAMA. ♡
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I WORE IT.
I CHANGED INTO THIS OUTFIT BECAUSE I'M FEELING BETTER. ♡

THANK YOU FOR VISITING!
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY MUSUBI IS EVEN HERE?
IT'S ONE OF THE ONES YOU BROUGHT, KARASUBA-SAMA. ♡
AH, WOULD YOU LIKE AN APPLE?
YES.
GIGGLE
I WON'T HEAR THE END OF IT ONCE I RETURN TO HQ.
THIS IS ONE OF MBI'S MEDICAL FACILITIES, AFTER ALL.

I FOUGHT THE DIS-CIPLINARY SQUAD!
...YES.
OHH... SO...
YOU PROBABLY KNOW ALREADY, THEN...

FU FU FU.
EH-HEH-HEH. I LOST, THOUGH.
MUSUBI STILL HAS WORK TO DO.

...AGAIN.
YUME-SAMA...
SHE SAVED ME...

YUME
...
DID YOU SEND THEM AFTER US?
THE DISCI-PLINARY SQUAD?
DID YOU, KARA-SUBA-SAMA?

DID MUSUBI REALLY CEASE TO FUNCTION?

DID I HEAR YOU RIGHT BEFORE?

BUT MUSUBI-CHAN DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
YEAH...
MUSUBI CHAN

ONE THING ...
...WEIGHS ON MY MIND.

... CALLING HERSELF NO. 08...
BUT THEN SHE STARTED GLOWING AND STOOD UP...
FOR A WHILE, HER SEKIREI CREST VANISHED...

NO. 08!?

MUSUBI SAID SHE RECEIVED A SOUL.
A SEKIREI SOUL... IN OTHER WORDS...
MBI

...THAT WHICH POWERS US...
A "SEKIREI CORE."

S-SEKIREI CORE??
THE MYSTERIES OF SEKIREI DEEPEN...
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT...
SHE ROSE ONCE MORE AFTER CEASING TO FUNCTION...
...AND A NEW NUMBER APPEARED ON HER STOMACH.
THAT OF YUME, "NO. 08."
TAKAMI.
YOU MUST KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
WHO IS THIS NO. 08?
I SUPPOSE THE TIME HAS COME...
...TO TELL YOU THIS.
.....

!!
BUT CALL ME "MOTHER-IN-LAW."
WON'T YOU, TSUKIUMI?
IGNORING
UM. I WAS JUST JOKING.
YES, HONOR-ABLE MOTH-ER!!
UGH.
M-MOM... SERIOUSLY? NOT NOW...
I MUSTN'T COMMIT A FAUX PAS .....!
THIS IS YOUR ONE CHANCE, TSUKI-UMI!!

ABOUT THAT, THERE'S A TON THAT EVEN MBI DOESN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND.
BUT THERE'S A REASON IT HAPPENED SPECIFICALLY TO NO. 88, MUSUBI.
ALSO, NO. 08 IS NO LONGER OF THIS WORLD.
THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY AT THE PRESENT.
...!!!
TSU-TSUKI-UMI.
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN.
THAT'S JUST HOW MY MOM IS.
ABOUT THIS INCI-DENT ...
WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO THE SCENE TO CONFIRM THAT NO. 88 HAD CEASED FUNCTIONING...
...AND TO RETRIEVE HER.
BUT INSTEAD OF A DEAD SEKIREI, WHAT DID I FIND BUT MY OWN NO-GOOD SON LOLLING ABOUT.
...WE AT MBI HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MARK DOWN THIS EPISODE WITH MUSUBI AS A MALFUNCTION IN THE SYSTEM.
BECAUSE THERE'S NO PRECEDENT FOR SUCH A REVIVAL ...
LOLLING... ABOUT? MOM...
SO MEAN...

A LEVEL FOUR SEKIREI?
GOT IT. SEND OUT THE RETRIEVAL TEAM. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
L-LEVEL FOUR?
ピピピッ RING
YOU SAID THERE'S A REASON WHY IT WAS MUSUBI-CHAN...
UMM... MOM.
BEEP ピッ
IT'S ME.
...WHAT'S THAT?
ピピピッ RING
SORRY, MINATO. IT'S WORK.
IT MEASURES HOW SERIOUS A DEFEAT IS.
THERE ARE FIVE LEVELS.
... IMPLIES TERRIBLE WOUNDS.
LEVEL FOUR...

19

SO LACKING.
IN ALL RESPECTS.
SHE WAS WRONG.
TO GO AWAY, LIKE SHE DID.
EVEN THOUGH...
...SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO KILL...
.....
KARA-SUBA-SAMA...
...YOU SMELL OF BLOOD .....

THUMP
ROLL
MU-CHAN, YOU...
I NEED YOU TO GET STRONGER. MUCH, MUCH STRONGER.
WRENCH
JUST LIKE HER.
NO.
EVEN STRONGER THAN SHE WAS.

WE'RE BETTING THE WHOLE WORLD...
...THAT WE'LL BE THE FINAL TWO.....!
AND UPHOLD OUR PROMISE.

THE THIRD PHASE IS STARTING.

WE'LL HAVE FUN KILLING EACH OTHER.

Chapter 54: The Long Walk

出雲荘
SIGN: IZUMO INN
出雲荘
WE'RE BACK.....!!
WE'RE...
IT'S BEEN A WHOLE WEEK, IZUMO INN!!

SUCH IS THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE MIGHT OF MBI'S TECHNOLOGY!
I'M SORRY...
IT'S BECAUSE MUSUBI'S EXAM TOOK SO LONG.
A-APPARENTLY I HAD TWO CRACKED RIBS, BUT...
...THEY TREATED IT LIKE JUST A FEW SCRATCHES... HA-HA.
WHILE YOUR INJURIES WERE HEALED IN THREE DAYS, MINATO-SAN.
I'M SORRY, MINATO.
HAD I BEEN AT YOUR SIDE FROM THE START...
BUT I FAILED ON SEVERAL ACCOUNTS... I ALLOWED MY ASHIKABI TO SUFFER HARM.
LOOM
?
FWIP
TSUKI-UMI...

WELCOME HOME... ♡
...ASHIKABI-KUN! ♡♡
SPLORT

NO, DON'T USE "-SAN" FOR YOUR NEW BRIDE.
KA—
KA-KA-KA... KA-KAZE-HANA... SAN!?
CALL ME KA-ZE-HA-...
...-NA.
BONK
OHHH, MIYA. SUCH A SCARY FACE.
LADLE
HEART-SHAPED SPEECH BALLOONS ARE TOO.
BEING NAKED UNDER YOUR APRON IS FORBIDDEN AT IZUMO INN.

SHE SHOWED UP AND SAID, "I'VE FOUND A NEW DARLING, SO I'LL BE STAYING AT IZUMO INN."
SO NOW EVEN KAZEHANA IS LIVING HERE.
OKAY. I'M CHANG-ING.
THOSE WHO THREATEN PUBLIC ORDER AND MORALITY ARE NOT WELCOME HERE.
SNEAKILY
RUNNING AWAY
BECAUSE... I REALLY FEEL LIKE I'M BEING ATTACKED.
UM... ARE YOU ATTACKING ME, MS. LANDLADY?
...AND NOW AN OBSCENE EXHIBI-TIONIST... FU-FU-FU.
THERE'S THE AIRHEADED GLUTTON, A LITTLE FOSTER DAUGHTER, A PERVERTED FOUR-EYES, A FAUCET WITH LEGS...
WHEN I HAVE SO MANY FREE-LOADERS HERE ALREADY...
NOT REALLY SURE I KNOW EITHER... AHA... AH-HA.
RIGHT...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
WHAT DIRECTION ARE YOU HEADED IN?
SAHASHI-SAN.

BIG... BROTHER.
NNN...
KU-CHAN.
うえええん
WHIMPER
うえっ
WHIMPER
BIG BROTHER.
PLEASE STAND UP...
BIG BROTH-ER?
BIG BROTHER.
HORK!
SLAM

OH, I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
MATSU-SAN.
GLAD TO BE HOME.
YOU ALL HEALED UP?
KU'S NEVER LEAVING YOU AGAIN...

WELCOME BACK.
MINA-TAN.

WE NEED TO MEET AND RECAP...
REGARDING THIS INCIDENT AS WELL AS OUR ACTIONS GOING FORWARD.

INDEED...
MATSU'S CALCULATIONS DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR MUCH OF THIS.

YEAH... SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU.
WHEN I LEFT, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE GONE FOR A WHOLE WEEK.

...THE BLACK SEKIREI GOT NO. 19!?
...REALLY...
OH... IT SEEMS NO. 95 MANAGED TO SLIP OUT OF TEITO.
...YEAH, MY INTEL'S RELIABLE.
...ALSO... NO. 03 IS OUT OF REACH NOW.
.....
.....
THE "HANNYA OF THE NORTH" IS KEEPING YOU GUYS AT BAY, RIGHT!?
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HAVING ME DO YOUR "HUNTING" FOR YOU HERE IN THE NORTH AREA...
YEAH, YEAH... I GOT IT.
I DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE HERE.

...BUT IN EXCHANGE ...
IN EXCHANGE, YOU'LL HELP CHIHO...
.....
...OKAY.
...BYE, THEN...
BEEP
CAN I TAKE ANOTHER PEEK AT YOUR COLLECTION?
TAKE WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
HUH... SURE.
FWIP
OOOH...♡ I WONDER WHAT MY ASHIKABI-KUN WOULD LIKE TO SEE ME IN.
YOU'VE GOT SO MANY IN HERE, UZUME-CHAN.
UZUME-CHAAAN.
MIYA SAID THE APRON'S NO GOOD.

HEY, UZUME-CHAN.
TWITCH
I COULD TOUCH IT RIGHT NOW AND CHANT MY NORITO...
HER SEKIREI CREST...
MUST BE SOMEONE PRETTY WONDERFUL...
...FOR YOU TO CARE SO MUCH.
...THAT YOU'VE GOT ALL THESE OUTFITS IN ORDER TO CHEER UP A CERTAIN PERSON...
MIYA HAPPENED TO TELL ME...
IS IT YOUR ASHIKABI, UZUME-CHAN?

...YEAH.
AND SHE'S NOT GONNA LOSE...
...TO SAHASHI-CHAN.

AS MANY AS YOU WANT.
HMM...? BUT I THOUGHT THEY WERE FOR YOUR ASHIKABI TO ENJOY...

TAKE 'EM, BIG SIS.
THESE.

NEVER MIND THAT.

I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN SO MANY SMILES FROM THAT GIRL.

THAT'S WHY...
... YOU CAN HAVE THEM ALL...

'COS... WELL.
I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE I NEED TO GO.

...NOT SURE WHEN I'LL BE BACK.

IT'S... FINE.

YOU CAN START BY EXPLAINING JUST WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT RAILWAY BRIDGE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF MUSUBI-TAN'S EXAM?
WHY DID NO. 04 COME TO VISIT?

WELL?

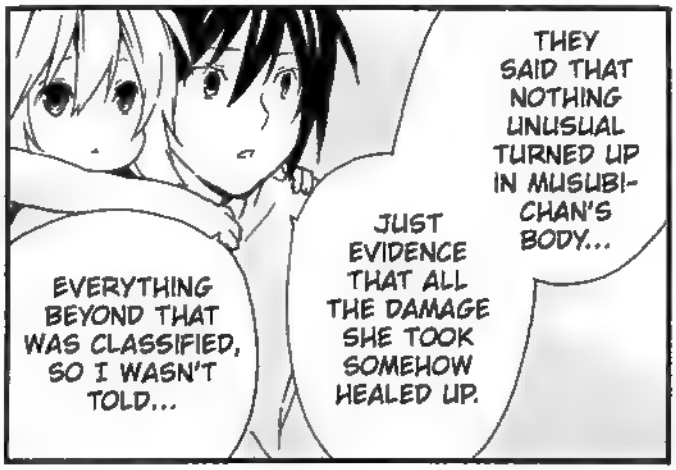
I NEED TO KNOW!!
I NEED TO KNOW!!!
PAST, PRESENT, HERE, THERE—ALL OF CREATION'S KNOWLEDGE IS MATSU'S TO POSSESS!!
WITH MY SATELLITE EYE IN THE SKY, WIRETAPPING EARS, AND THE ELECTRONIC SEA OF BRAINWAVES THAT IS THE NET!

I TRIED TO GET THE INFO, BUT THE RESULTS OF MUSUBI-TAN'S EXAM AREN'T IN THE DATABASE YET. AND HACKING THE SPY SATELLITE DIDN'T HELP BECAUSE IT WAS NIGHTTIME. NO AUDIO RECORDINGS, EITHER, OF COURSE.
SO I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WAS SAID BACK THERE.
M-MATSU-SAN.
BACK UP A BIT.
WHAT'S WITH THIS INTERRO-GATION...?

MATSU IS MINA-TAN'S TACTICIAN, IS SHE NOT?
THERE CAN BE NOTHING I DON'T KNOW.
NO! THERE MUSTN'T BE. ♡

KU FU KU FU KU FU.
WHAT'S THIS LUSTY WITCH REALLY LUSTING FOR...?
THAT WAS TERRIBLE WORDPLAY, RIGHT THERE...
BECAUSE MATSU IS THE SEKIREI OF PERVERTEDNESS...
WAIT, NO— THE SEKIREI OF PERSPICACITY!!

VIA SPY SATELLITE.
AND NO. 04?
I SAW HER ENTER THE HOSPITAL MYSELF.
AH, SO MATSU KNOWS ABOUT THAT.


THEY SAID THAT NOTHING UNUSUAL TURNED UP IN MUSUBICHAN'S BODY...
JUST EVIDENCE THAT ALL THE DAMAGE SHE TOOK SOMEHOW HEALED UP.
EVERYTHING BEYOND THAT WAS CLASSIFIED, SO I WASN'T TOLD...

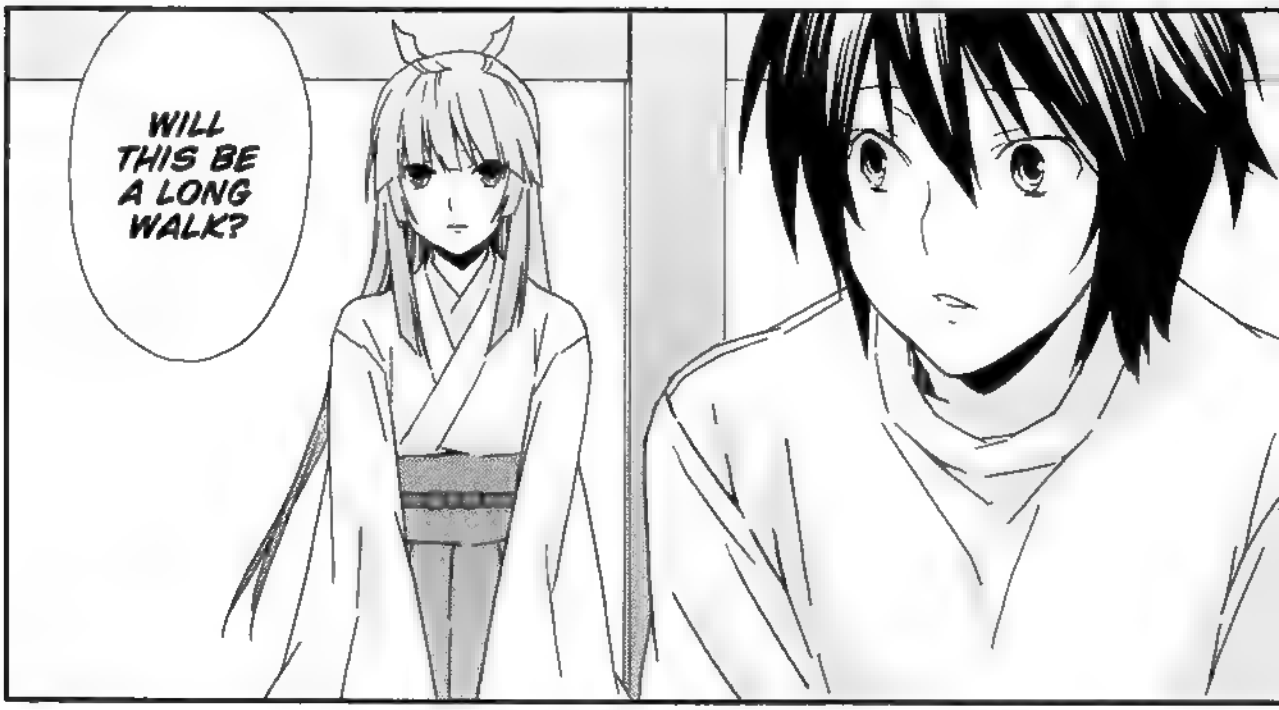
?
NO, NO. NOTHING LIKE THAT.
SHE JUST MENTIONED THE TIMING OF THE INCIDENT WAS PERFECT FOR A VISIT.
WHAT ELSE?
... WELL ?
WAS SHE BLOODY AND CARRYING A LONG SWORD?

SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS JUST MAKING A GET-WELL VISIT...
SHE'S FRIENDS WITH MUSUBICHAN, RIGHT?
AND THOSE APPLES WERE TASTY.
A GET-WELL VISIT...?

THERE WAS SOMETHING MUSUBI-CHAN SAID...
AH... RIGHT.
THE THIRD PHASE IS STARTING ...
...WHAT WAS THAT...!?
STRETCH のびっ
...I THINK, TSUKIUMI-SAN. ♡

I KNEW IT FELT LIKE WE WERE MISSING SOMEONE...
SOMEONE WHO NEVER MISSES A CHANCE FOR A BATH.
HMM?
I JUST REALIZED.
HOLD ON... MUSUBI.
THAT'S HARDLY A CASUAL CONVERSATION TOPIC FOR THE BATH!!
UZUME-SAN.
SHE'S NOT HERE...
出雲荘
SIGN: IZUMO INN
YOU HEADING OUT SOMEWHERE?
UZUME-SAN.

A WALK...?
COOL. BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
YEAH ...
JUST GOING FOR A WALK.


WILL THIS BE A LONG WALK?

... MIYA...

...UZUME-SAN.

I'LL BE SURE TO LEAVE IT JUST AS IT IS.
YOUR ROOM...
UZUME-SAN!

SO...
...HURRY BACK IN TIME FOR THAT.

UMM... WE'RE HAVING A BIG FEAST TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE OUR SUCCESS!
MUSUBI-CHAN'S GONNA MAKE HER USUAL JUMBO-SIZE CURRY.

SEE YA LATER.
DASH

Chapter 55: Nightmarish Blaze

YAWN
KEEP TRYING, YOU TWO!
HIYAH!
RAHH!
WHAT'S FOR BREAK-FAST? ♡
MORNING, SAHASHI-CHAN.
MORNING.
MORE EARLY MORNING TRAINING? GOOD LUCK.
GOOD MORNING...
...MINATO-SAN!
AH. ♡

"GOING FOR A WALK."
THAT'S ALL UZUME-SAN SAID BEFORE LEAVING.
AND SHE HASN'T COME BACK SINCE THEN.
SIGH...
WHAT IS IT, MINATO?
AH.
YOU'VE LOOKED DISHEARTENED SINCE THIS MORNING.
AH.
S-SORRY.

UZUME-SAN...
I WAS THINKING... MAYBE IT'S MY FAULT. MAYBE SHE FOUND IT TOO HARD TO STAY HERE...
KU-CHAN.
THERE'S MUSUBI-CHAN.
UM. I MEAN ...
AND WHY WOULD IT BE YOUR FAULT?
?
MATSU-SAN.
YOU, TSUKI-UMI.
AND NOW KAZEHANA-SAN.
WHAT'S THAT, NOW?
MY EARS ARE BURNING.
KICK

UMM...IT'S JUST THAT BEFORE I KNEW IT...
...IZUMO INN FILLED UP WITH MY SEKIREI.
WHAP
SERVING PLATE
OPEN DOORS WITH YOUR HANDS!
SUCH POOR MANNERS.
I HEARD HOW UZUME-SAN ONLY GETS TO SEE HER ASHIKABI ONCE IN A WHILE.
SO MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE INSENSI-TIVE...
THOSE SPEECH BALLOONS HAVE SPIKES ...!!
SPIKES... SPIKES...!
MY, MY. UFU-FU. ♡
SO YOU ACTUALLY ADMIT YOUR WRONGDOING.
SHE'S PROBABLY ALL LOVEY-DOVEY WITH HER ASHIKABI RIGHT NOW. ♡ ♡
UZUME-CHAN IS, WELL... ♡

HMM? SHE WAS GOING ON AND ON ABOUT HER ASHIKABI JUST BEFORE LEAVING, SO...
...I WAS SURE THAT'S WHO SHE WAS HEADED OUT TO MEET.
H-HER ASHIKABI?

THAT'S GOOD, BUT...
OH... I GUESS...
WHAT'S UP, KAGARI?
WHAT'S WITH THAT SCARY MUG?

...IT'S HARD TO OVERLOOK THE ACTIONS OF THE "VEILED SEKIREI."
I'M THE SEKIREI GUARDIAN, SO...

...THERE'S JUST ONE THING I NEED TO SAY.

SO IF SHE HAPPENED TO BE IN TROUBLE...
"UZUME," HOWEVER, IS A FRIEND AND FELLOW LODGER.

IF, BY CHANCE, I DISAPPEAR ONE OF THESE DAYS...
...JUST KNOW THAT "UZUME" IS DEAD AND GONE.
...BUT...
DON'T BE WEIRD, KAGARI.
I'M NOT IN TROUBLE. NOT AT ALL.
DEFINITELY...
I KNOW SHE DIDN'T LEAVE BECAUSE OF THIS GUY.....
SOME-THING WAS DEFINITELY UP WITH UZUME.
WHY DOES HE PISS ME OFF SO MUCH?
WHY IS IT?

M-I-I-NAAATOO.
I'VE TOLD YOU THAT YOUR LIFE IS FORFEIT IF YOU INSIST ON PLAYING THE "AHH" GAME.
TSU-TSUKI-UMI.
IT'S GOTTA BE HOW DAMN NICE HE IS.
THAT FACE. THAT BEHAVIOR.
SAY "AHH."
HE LOSES ARGU-MENTS BEFORE HE EVEN SPEAKS.
HIS CON-FIDENCE IS SO LOW IT'S PRAC-TICALLY UNDER-GROUND.
JUST LOOKING AT HIM...
...MAKES ME...
...FEEL NAUSEOUS!!

WHEN NO. 88 AND HIM FIRST SHOWED UP HERE, I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S CHANGED SINCE THEN.
SO WHY DOES HE IRRITATE ME SO MUCH?
HE'S WELL-MANNERED ENOUGH WHILE EATING...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A FAILURE HE LOOKS LIKE ON THE OUT-SIDE, HE'S ALREADY GOT FIVE SEKIREI.
AN ASHIKABI'S POWER IS PROPORTION-AL TO THE NUMBER OF SEKIREI HE'S WINGED AND THE DEPTH OF HIS BOND WITH THEM.
I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE REASON.
AND THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S AN ASHIKABI.
NO... COULD IT BE...?
MY UNREA-SONABLY PRICKLY FEELINGS TOWARD HIM...
...AND THIS UNPRECE-DENTED INSTABILITY IN MY BODY...

K-KAGARI-SAN?
WHAT IS IT...?
SOME-THING ON MY FACE?
AH.
UMM...
DAMN IT...
I WAS SUBCON-SCIOUSLY GIVING HIM THE EVIL EYE.
...IT'S NOTHING.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD, MIYA.
BUT...
...YOU BARELY ATE ANYTHING...?
B-BUT...
...I FEEL A FEVER COMING ON. NO APPETITE.
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO WORK FOR A WHILE.
ARE YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?
...YOU HAVEN'T SEEMED WELL RECENTLY...
TH-THIS GUY.....
A MAN HAS NO RIGHT TO BE WORRYING ABOUT MY BODY!!
...SICK OR NOT...
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
...EH?

A-ANY-WAY!
I DON'T NEED YOUR CONCERN.
.....AH.

KAGARI-TAAAN.
MATSU THINKS IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR AN EXAM...

KAGARI... KA— SAN...?

FOOM
GYAHH.
I DIDN'T WANT TO IMAGINE IT...
...BUT COULD MY BODY...? NO...
COULD IT BE REACTING TO HIM ...!?
YOU SURE WOKE UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED.
YOU...
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
STOMP
STOMP
THROB
...
OUCH...
...TCH.

HEY, MUSUBI-CHAN.

OH REALLY ?
I'M GETTING A STRONG IMPRES-SION.
UM, YEAH...

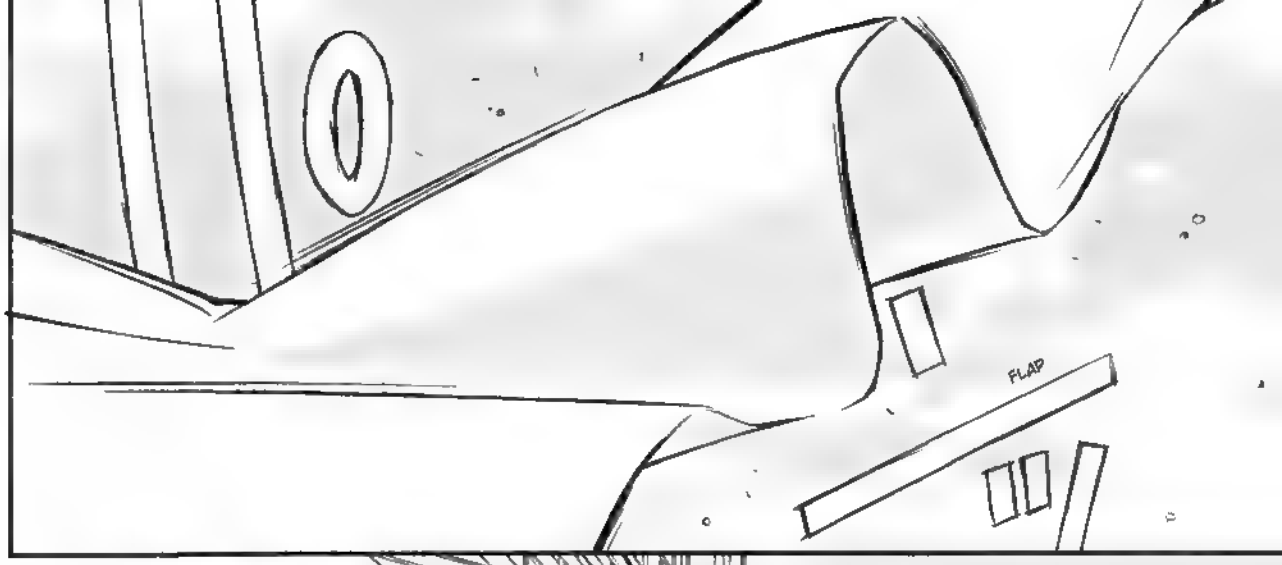
I...
I THINK KAGARI-SAN HATES ME OR SOME-THING...
FSSHH

BUT DON'T THEY ALWAYS SAY...
"HATING'S THE BEST WAY TO HIDE LOVE"?

RIGHT?
MU-MUSUBI-CHAN...I THINK THAT'S... A LITTLE DIFFERENT...
HUH? DID MUSUBI SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?
WHY...?
WHY ME?
UHH...
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WITH THIS KIND OF BODY!?
ANSWER ME, MINAKA!!

ALL TO MAKE THE GAME MORE FUN.
FOR THE GAME.
AND IF THAT FACT SINKS YOU INTO DESPAIR...
...THEN GO ON! WRITHE AND STRUGGLE!
...YOU WILL FIND MEANING IN YOUR EXISTENCE.
AT THE EDGE OF SHAME...
AT THE EDGE OF CATHARSIS ...

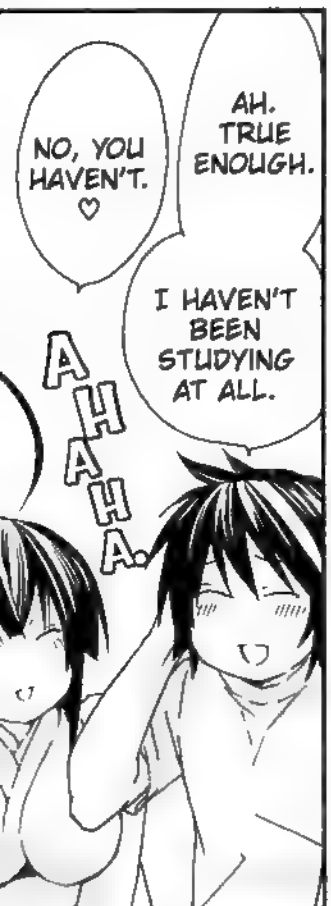
Chapter 56: Last to Be Winged


FLAP

IS THAT ALL THE LAUNDRY?
YES.

SO YOU'RE A SEED COMPETITOR, MUSUBI-CHAN...
OF COURSE, THE PRIZE IS SITTING NEXT TO YOU AT DINNER, MINATO-SAN. ♡
MUSUBI WILL FACE OFF AGAINST THE WINNER.
HAVING A SHOPPING RACE!
WHERE'RE TSUKUMI AND KAZE-HANA...?

NICE WEATHER, HUH.
YES. ♡
UMM... THEY CALL THIS...


AH. TRUE ENOUGH.
NO, YOU HAVEN'T. ♡
I HAVEN'T BEEN STUDYING AT ALL.
AHAHA.

EH...A STORM?
RAIN'S COMING?
EH HEH. ♡
I WAS JUST THINKING ...

EVER SINCE THE TEITO ESCAPE PLAN...
BUT IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING .....
...EVERY-THING'S BEEN REALLY QUIET AROUND HERE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN STUDY-ING LATELY, MINATO-SAN.
UMM.

...THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM.

FWOOM
THE SOUND OF BLOOD DRAINING AWAY
BUT...I'M A CRAM STUDENT !!!
HAVEN'T BEEN STUDYING ...
ABOUT THAT...
MINA-TAN.
PEEK
WH-WHAT DO I DO? CAN I EVEN MAKE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER STUDY COURSE ...??
WAIT. FORGET THE APPLICATION. TEITO'S UNDER TOTAL LOCKDOWN, DUH.
CR-CRAP. I TOTALLY FORGOT...
GWAHHHH

FLIP
MATSU'S SPECIAL COMPETENCY TEST
WHY DON'T YOU TRY THIS?
FU-FU-FU-FU. ♪
MATSU-SAN.
EAVES-DROPPING AGAIN...
HOLD ON... MATSU-SAN.
LA-LA ♪
JUST A BRIEF TEST OF YOUR ABILITIES.
BUT STILL, TAKE IT SERI-OUSLY.
AH. IT'S JUST A NORMAL-LOOKING TEST.
CHEMISTRY I
MATH I
...A TEST?
AND BRING IT TO MATSU'S ROOM WHEN YOU'RE ALL FINISHED. ♡
WHOA.
THAT WAS OUT OF NOWHERE.
S-SO DIFFICULT.

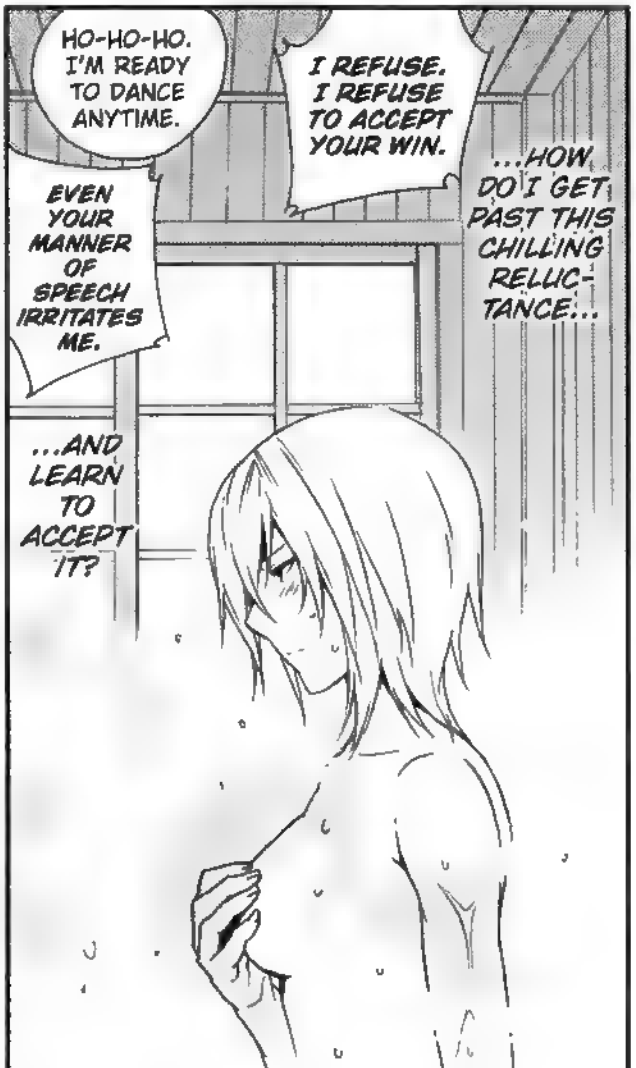
WHOOSH
I'M BAAAACK! ♡
WHEEZE WHEEZE
YOU.
WHEEZE
Y—
THIS MATCH ...
...IS MY WIN! ♡
HEY NOW, NO SORE LOSERS!
CARRYING THOSE HEAVY BAGS AS IF THEY WERE NOTHING...
YOU CHEAT!! USING YOUR WIND POWER TO AID YOU.
B-BE NICE, BOTH OF YOU.
C-CALM DOWN, TSUKIUMI.
KYAHHH
SPLASH

CRACK CLATTER
PLUNK
FSSHH

FOR THE GAME.
ALL TO MAKE THE GAME MORE FUN.
HOMURA.
YOU'RE PROBABLY THE SEKIREI PROTOTYPE.
"PROBABLY" IS AS SURE AS WE CAN BE.
SHIT.
EVEN MOCKING ME IN MY DREAMS.
DRIP DRIP
SPLASH
.....!!
SPLASH
WE MODIFIED YOU AS MUCH AS WE COULD, BUT...
...YOUR POWER OUTPUT WILL BE UNSTABLE UNTIL YOU'RE WINGED.
UNSTABLE'S RIGHT. EVEN YOUR GENDER.
AND WHEN IT COMES TO WINGING, YOUR CHOICE IN ASHIKABI IS GONNA BE LIMITED.
ON THE OFF CHANCE YOU ACTUALLY DO REACT TO SOMEONE...
...YOUR BODY'LL CONFORM TO THAT ASHIKABI'S .....

THIS TRANS-FORMA-TION...
IF IT'S REALLY PROOF THAT I'M REACT-ING TO SOME-ONE...
FSSSHHH
TAKEHITO ASAMA!!
SPLASH

LET'S ALL BE FRIENDS.
NO FIGHTING, NOW.
WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
.....


HO-HO-HO. I'M READY TO DANCE ANYTIME.
I REFUSE. I REFUSE TO ACCEPT YOUR WIN.
...HOW DO I GET PAST THIS CHILLING RELUC-TANCE...
EVEN YOUR MANNER OF SPEECH IRRITATES ME.
...AND LEARN TO ACCEPT IT?

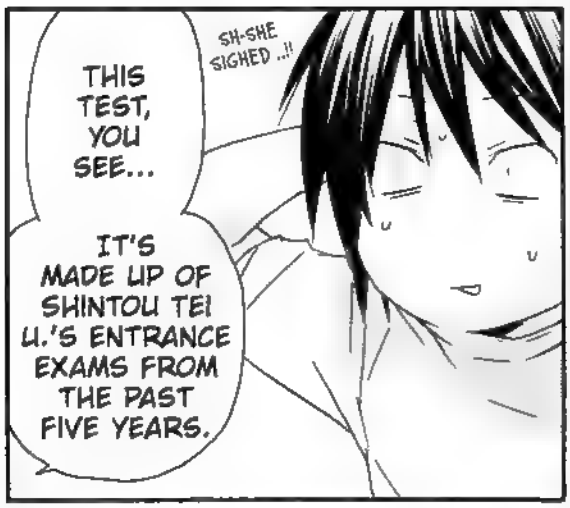
SLIDE
I'M HAVING SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER HERE, AND...
SHIT.

AH. WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN HERE, KAGARI-SAN.
!!!

I'M A MAN.
Y-YOU GIRLS.
SPLASH
UWAHH!
AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED!?
BIG SIS ISN'T ASHAMED. LET YOUR EYES HAVE THEIR FIIIILL! ♡
CLOSE YOUR EYES, IF YOU WISH.
THIS LOT...!!
TH—
SIZZLE
TREMBLE
KAGARI-SAN.
SORRY. WE DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE IN HERE.
CAN I WASH YOUR BACK FOR YOU?
NO THANKS.
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
TSUKIUMI-SAN, KAZEHANA-SAN—CAN I WASH YOUR BACKS?
I DARESAY THAT, WITH YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH...
...YOU WOULD STRIP MY SKIN STRAIGHT OFF.
HMM? WHO'S STRIPPING WHAT NOW? ♡
.....
... THEY'LL BE THE END OF ME.....

I THINK I JUST HEARD A SHRIEK FROM THE BATH.....
.....
MINA-TAAAN.
HOW'S IT GOING? YOU MANAGING?
AH, MATSU-SAN. I JUST FINISHED.
ACTUALLY STARTED HAVING FUN WITH IT PARTWAY THROUGH.
NOT AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE.
OHH? THAT CONFIDENT, HUH?
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.

SIGH
W—
WELL..... HOW IS IT?


SH-SHE SIGHED ..!!
THIS TEST, YOU SEE...
IT'S MADE UP OF SHINTOU TEI U.'S ENTRANCE EXAMS FROM THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

SO HOW ARE YOU A SECOND-YEAR ROUNIN?

MATSU JUST GATHERED UP THE QUESTIONS AND ADDED HER OWN TOUCH TO THEM.
SHE UPPED THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL, FOR ONE.
EHHHH... REALLY?

WHEN YOU GOT A PERFECT SCORE HERE?

LISTEN UP.
YOU DON'T NEED ANY SUMMER STUDY COURSE OR CRAM SCHOOL, MINA-TAN!

WHAT. I. MEAN ...
EH? REALLY?
NICE!

GOOD-FOR NOTHING!
GOOD-FOR NOTHING!
TH-THAT'S MEAN, MATSU-SAN...
...IS HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO FAIL THE EXAM TWICE?
HOW BADLY DID YOU EVEN DO ON THE REAL THING!?

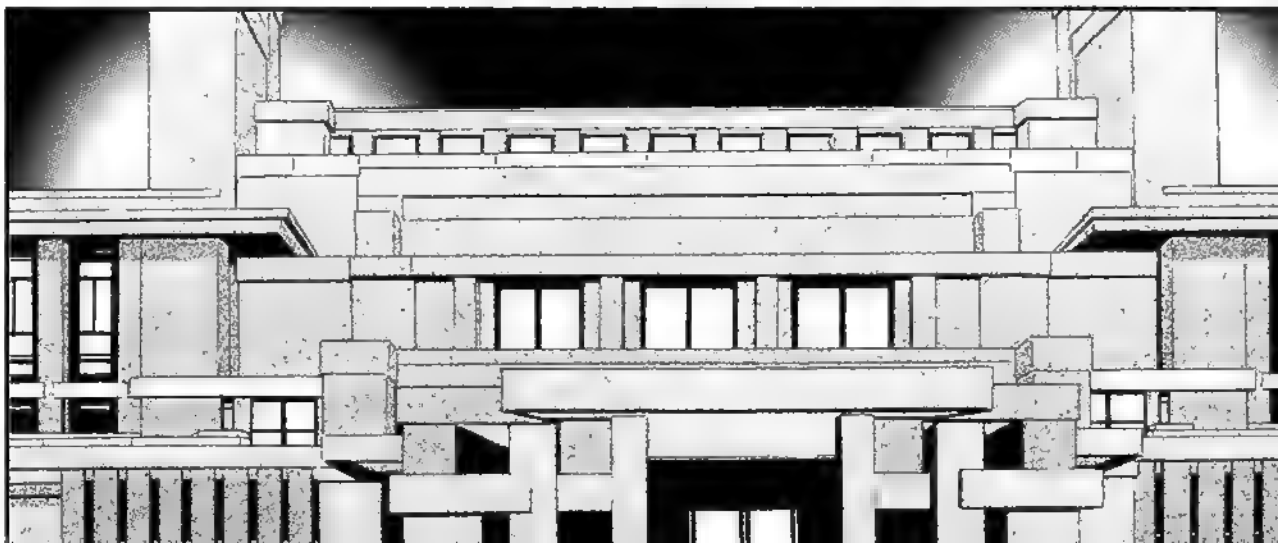
EH... B-BUT...
IT'S YOUR CONFIDENCE THAT'S LACKING.

MINA-TAN.
PRETTY SOON, I'LL MAKE YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN POTENTIAL.
...MY OWN...
... POTENTIAL .....?
... HMM?
BIG BROTHER.
BUZZ BUZZ
KU FU KU FU KU FU KU FU.
IT'D BE A CINCH TO GIVE YOU A PASSING GRADE, AT LEAST...
WELL, WORSE COMES TO WORST, MATSU CAN JUST FIDDLE WITH THE SCORE DATA.
SFX: TRILL TRILL
ヒロロロン ピロロロン
M-MATSU-SANNN.

A TEXT?
IT'S FROM... MBI'S...
HIROTO..... MINAKA ...!!!
BOOM

YOU HAVE NO CLUE WHERE NO. 108 IS?
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT...?
I-I SAID I DON'T KNOW.
DAMMIT, YOU PERVY GIRL.
I SEE.
WELL, THEN.
NO MORE USE FOR YOU.
GYAHHHH.
CRUNCH
THAT LOOKS PAINFUL...
DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO MAKE MINCEMEAT OF THEIR... Y'KNOW?

YUKARI SAHASHI (18) AND HER SEKIREI, SHIINA.
THEY'RE A FEROCIOUS COMBO, FEARED NEARLY AS MUCH AS TEITO'S "HANNYA OF THE NORTH."
THEIR MERCILESS STYLE HAS EARNED THEM THEIR NICKNAMES: "DEMON ASHIKABI" AND "REAPER SEKIREI."
THEY BATTLE ON IN THEIR SEARCH FOR NO. 108, KUSANO.
A TEXT?
... HMM ?
TRILL
ピロロロン
TRILL
ピロロロン
ANOTHER SWING AND A MISS.



CLICK
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET INTERESTING.
PREPARE TO HEAD OUT, MUTSU.
...WHAT IS IT, MIKO-GAMI?
HEH...
HEH HEH HEH.
THIS TEXT...
HIGA-SAMA.

..."THIS IS MBI'S CEO, HIROTO MINAKA.
"TO ALL THE FINE ASHIKABI READING THIS...
"...I BRING YOU SOME EXCITING NEWS!!
"ONLY ONE SEKIREI REMAINS UNWINGED, AND IT'S IN THE NORTH AREA.
"THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!! WILL YOU BE THAT BIRD!?"

STARTING OUT IS FUN.

THE EXCITING BEHIND-THE-SCENES OF THIS MANGA SERIES (AT LEAST SINCE VOLUME 1)

GOKURAKUIN (REPRESENTED BY MUSUBU)
GET ME THE REST BY TOMOR-ROW!!
PLEASE AND THANKS!!
SUPERVISOR AKAGI (REPRESENTED BY MITSUHA, MOUSE VERSION)
THIS IS A START.
HMM.
TWO...
THREE...
ONE DAY, I WAS LATE WITH MY MANU-SCRIPT, AS USUAL...
ONE MORE THING...
...AH.
SORRY, SORRY. I APPRECIATE YOUR UNDER-STANDING.
AH.
I'M SORRY, BUT IF YOU LEAVE LIKE THAT, WITHOUT EXPLAINING, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL I DID SOMETHING WRONG. ARE YOU MAD? I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE MAD.
FINE. I'LL TELL YOU.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT ANOTHER TIME.
WAIT, NAH. NEVER MIND.
DON'T LEAVE ME HANG-ING...
UWAHHH!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!

AN ANIME...YOU'D THINK AN ANNOUNCEMENT LIKE THAT WOULD DESERVE A LITTLE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE... MAYBE I HEARD WRONG?

AFTER HEARING THE NEWS MENTIONED SO CASUALLY BY MY SUPERVISOR, I RETURNED TO THE MANUSCRIPT WITH TREPIDATION.

PLEASE WATCH IT.

↑ THIS CONVERSATION HAPPENED A WHILE AGO.

...IT WAS ACTUALLY DECIDED MUCH EARLIER, BUT IT HAD TO BE KEPT A SECRET FOR CERTAIN REASONS.

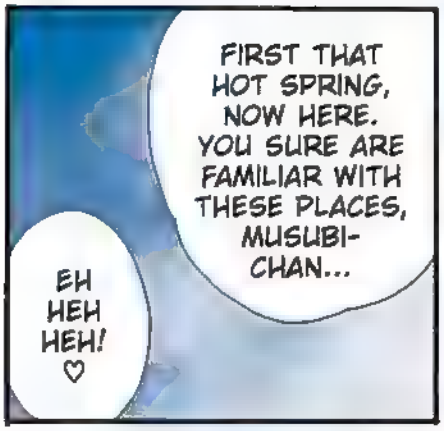
SEKIRE!'S GETTING AN ANIME!! ♥

ANYWAY, WITHOUT A DOUBT...

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 7

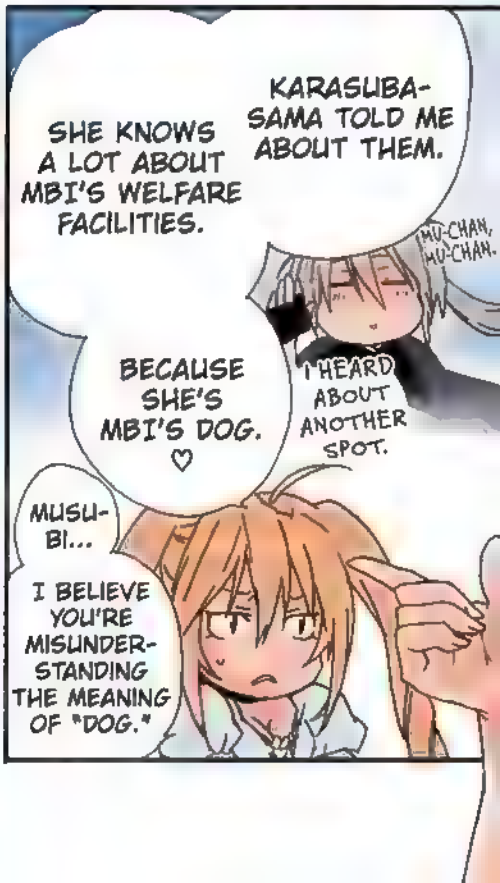
SO HOT...
BZZ ミーン BZZ ミーン BZZ ミーン
MINATO-SAAAN.
WANT TO COME WITH US TO THE BEACH?
LET'S GO, LET'S GO, LET'S GO.
TH-THE BEACH?
Side Story:
Sekirei at the Sea

WOW.


FIRST THAT HOT SPRING, NOW HERE. YOU SURE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THESE PLACES, MUSUBI-CHAN...
EH HEH HEH! ♡

I HAD NO CLUE THERE WAS A PLACE LIKE THIS IN THE CITY...
IT'S MBI'S SEKIREI-EXCLUSIVE BEACH. ♡
IT'S ANOTHER NEUTRAL ZONE. ♡
AG TAIL

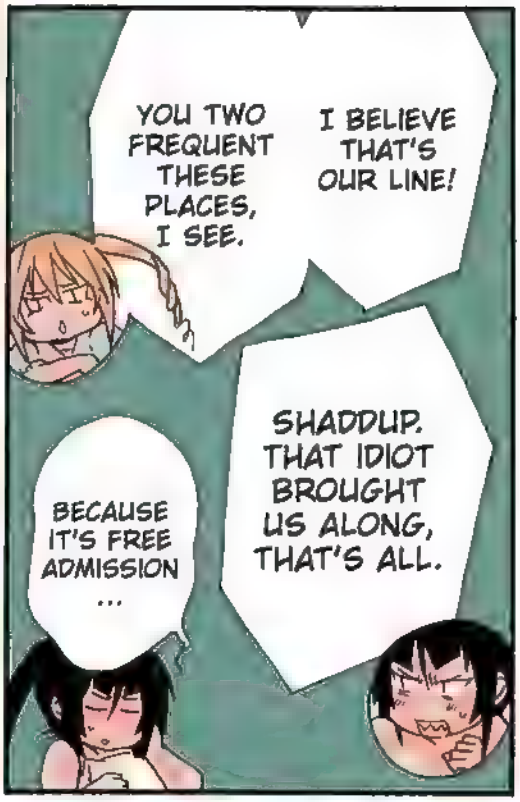
ぬぎっ
ぬぎっ
WAGTAIL
EHH...


KARASUBA-SAMA TOLD ME ABOUT THEM.
SHE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT MBI'S WELFARE FACILITIES.
MU-CHAN, MU-CHAN.
I HEARD ABOUT ANOTHER SPOT.
BECAUSE SHE'S MBI'S DOG. ♡
MUSU-BI...
I BELIEVE YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING THE MEANING OF "DOG."

KU-FU-KU-FU. ♡
WE WORE OUR SWIMSUITS UNDERNEATH. ♡
SHOCK
M-MATSU-SAN!! KU-CHAN!!
108
CLOTHING SHOULD BE CHANGED INDOORS!
HMPH! NO SENSE OF MODESTY.
THEY BEAT ME TO IT!
IF ONLY MUSUBI HAD ALSO COME SO PREPARED.
ばしゃばしゃ
SPLASH SPLASH
LET'S GO! ♡

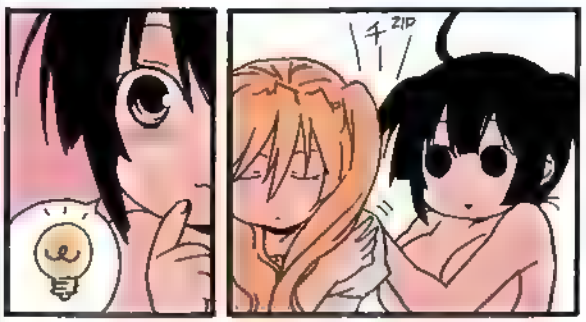
OH? THESE SHOES...
WE'RE NOT ALONE HERE.
女子更衣室→
THE CHANGING ROOM... IS OVER THERE.
SIGN: WOMEN'S CHANGING ROOM ->
GUH.
YOU PEOPLE AGAIN!

MU-
SUBI.
PARDON ME, BUT MIGHT YOU HELP ME UNZIP?


I BELIEVE THAT'S OUR LINE!
YOU TWO FREQUENT THESE PLACES, I SEE.
SHADDUP. THAT IDIOT BROUGHT US ALONG, THAT'S ALL.
BECAUSE IT'S FREE ADMISSION ...

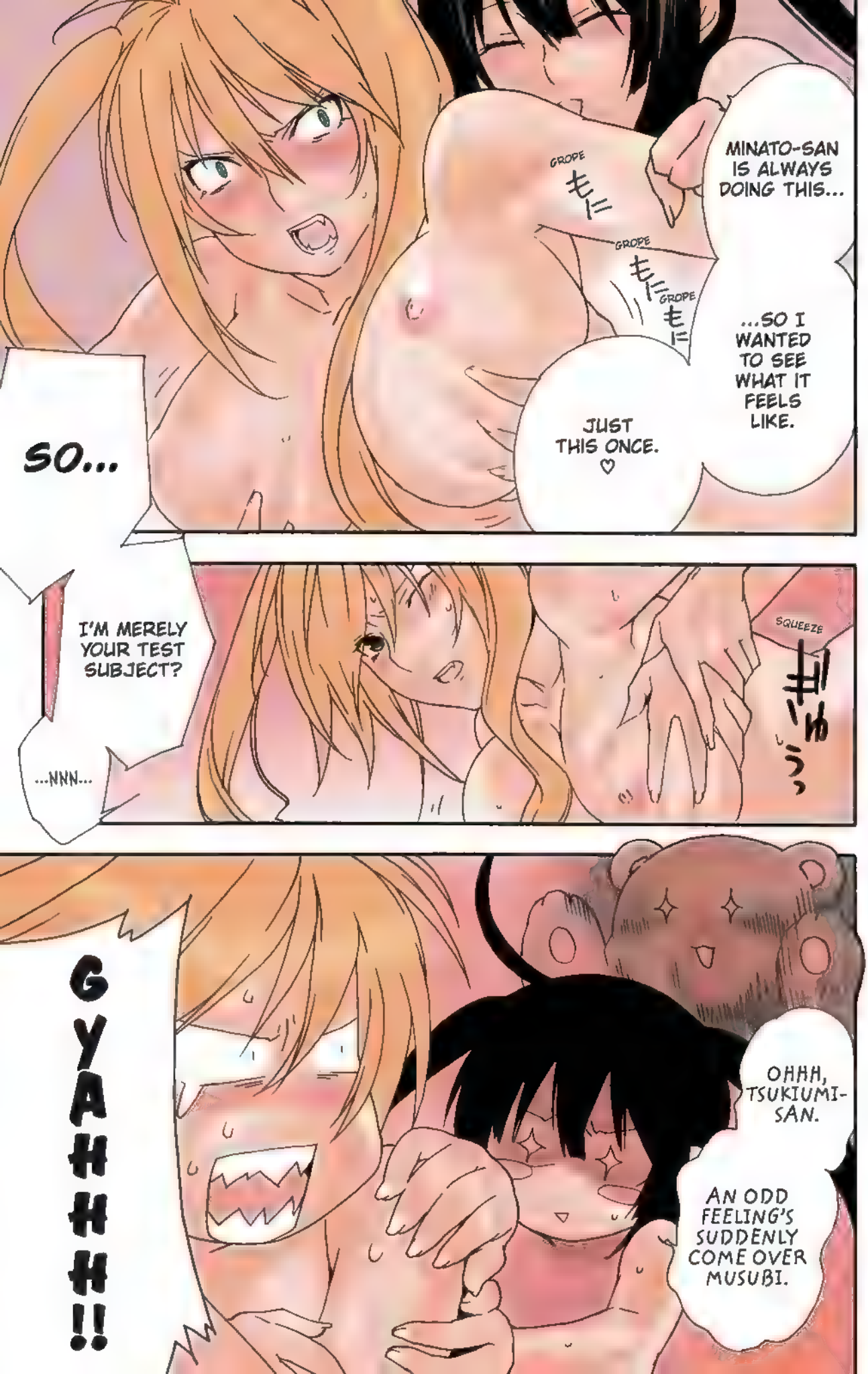
WH—
WHAT IS IT?

OKAY.

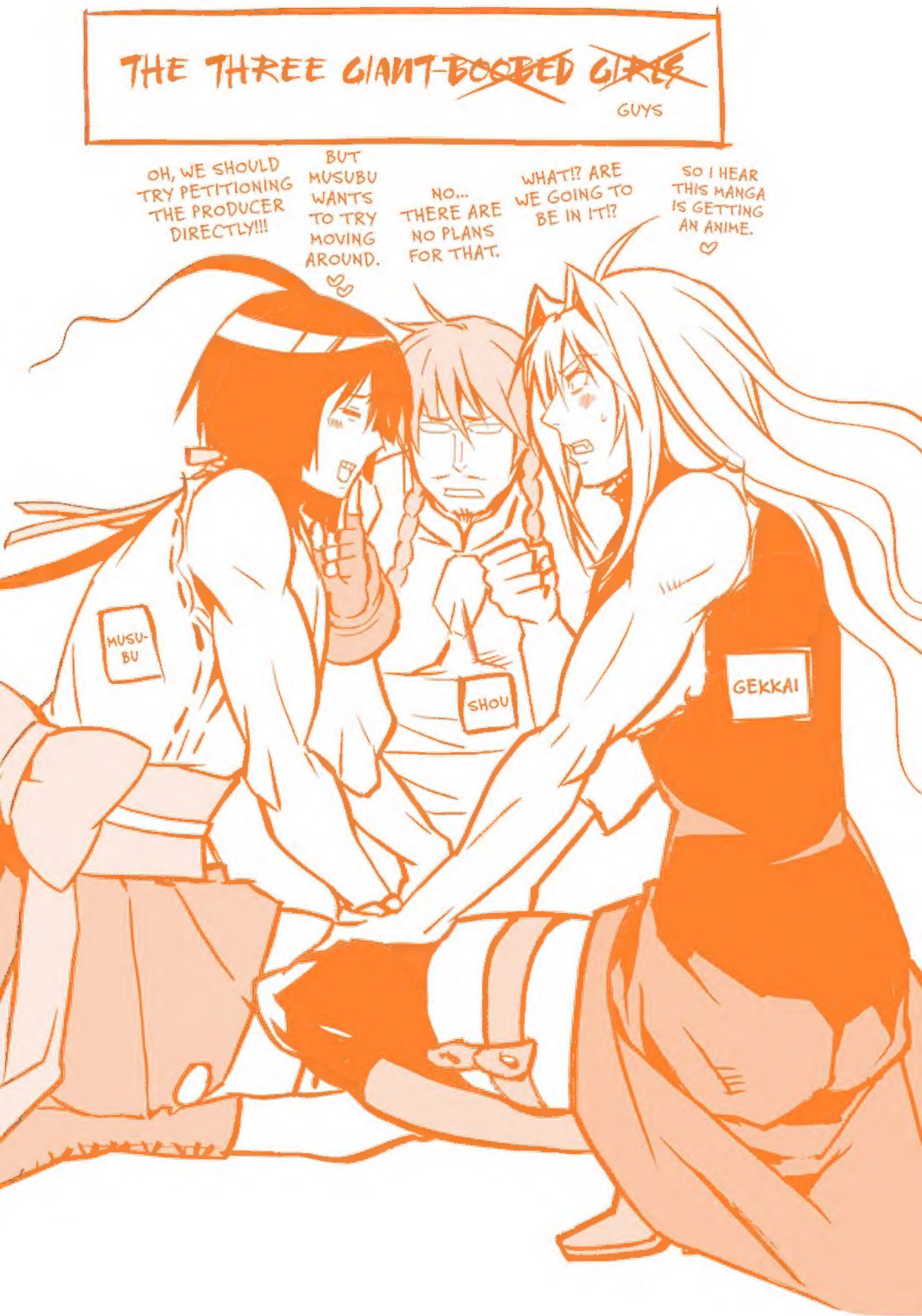

ZIP

GYAHHH!
EH HEH.
SQUISH
もぎゅ♥

MU-MUSUBI!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
EH HEH HEH.
YOU HAVE BIG ONES TOO, TSUKIUMI-SAN. ♡


MINATO-SAN IS ALWAYS DOING THIS...
GROPE
GROPE
GROPE
...SO I WANTED TO SEE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE.
JUST THIS ONCE. ♡
SO...
I'M MERELY YOUR TEST SUBJECT?
...NNN...
SQUEEZE
GYAHHH!!
OHHH, TSUKIUMI-SAN.
AN ODD FEELING'S SUDDENLY COME OVER MUSUBI.

MUSUBI, ARE YOU NO BETTER THAN THAT LEWD WITCH, MATSU?
COME TO YOUR SENSES OR TASTE THE WRATH OF MY WATER BLADE!!
LEWD ...?
WHAT'S A LEWD WITCH?
WAIT FOR ME, YOU LEWD BEAR!!
BEAR?
SO PEACEFUL.
ALSO, HOT.
GET BACK HERE.
KYAHH. KYAHH.


THE THREE GIANT-BOOBED GIRLS GUYS
OH, WE SHOULD TRY PETITIONING THE PRODUCER DIRECTLY!!!
BUT MUSUBU WANTS TO TRY MOVING AROUND.
NO... THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR THAT.
WHAT!? ARE WE GOING TO BE IN IT!?
SO I HEAR THIS MANGA IS GETTING AN ANIME.
MUSU-BU
SHOU
GEKKAI

COMMENT

I CAN'T HANDLE IT.

AN ANIME ADAPTATION? MUSUBI AND THE GIRLS... MOVING AROUND...

MINATO SAHASHI (ASHI-KABI)

SEKIREI ❻

Sakurako Gokurakuin

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